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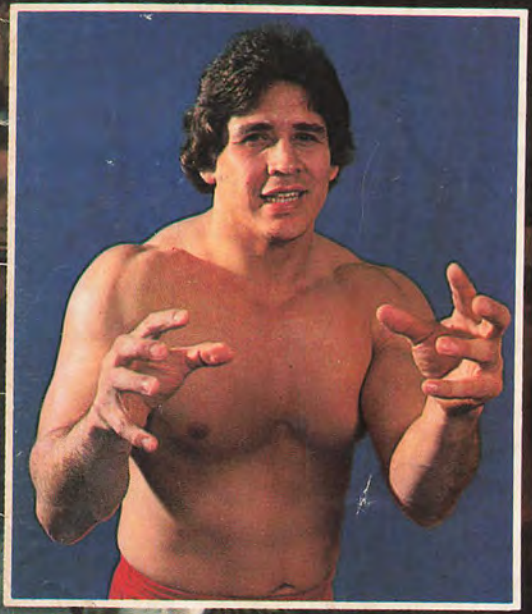

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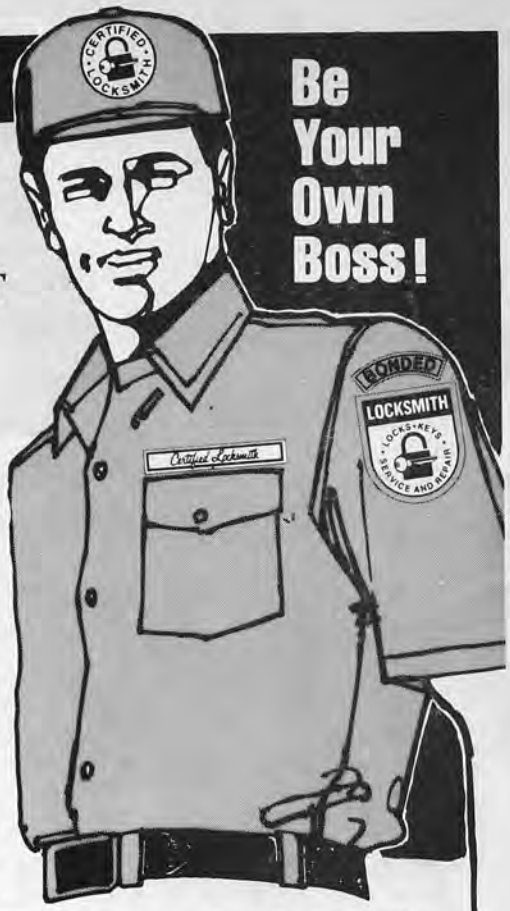

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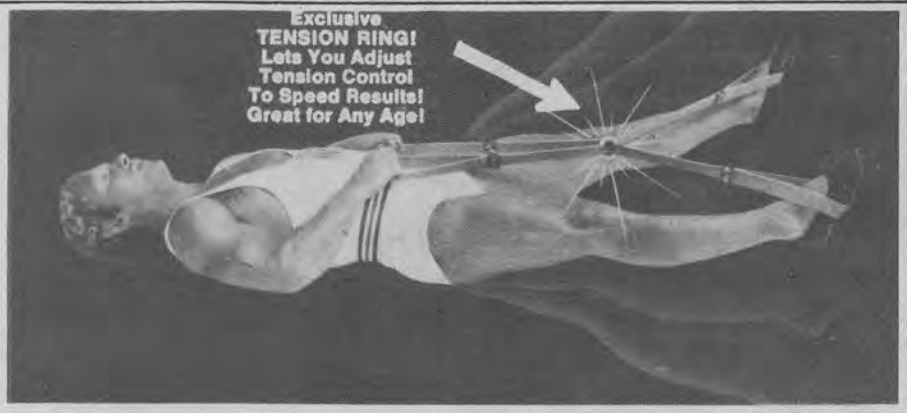

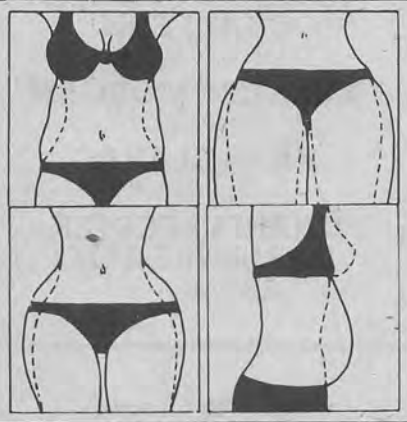

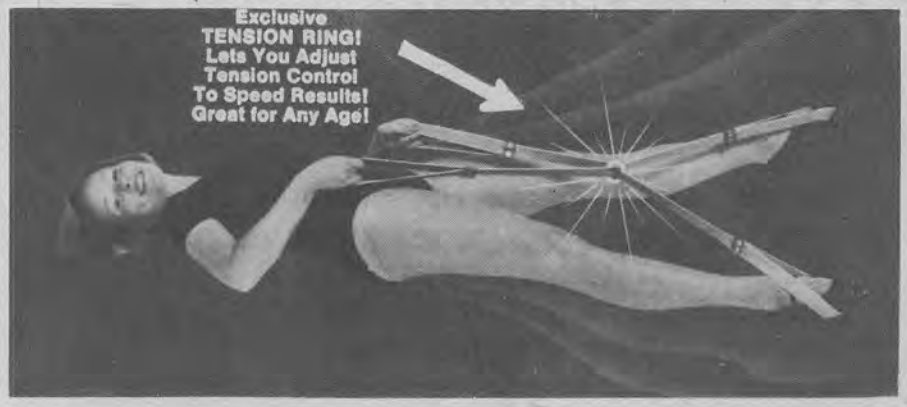

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THE Wrestler

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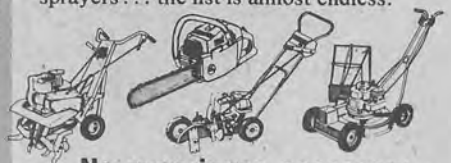

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YOUR LETTERS

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Billy Jack, enclosing Dory Funk Jr.'s head in his massive arms, has built an enormous national fan following. As well as being an outstanding wrestler, Billy is an excellent example for children, says reader Marie Trobich.

WORTHY NICKNAME

The People's Choice. Billy Jack certainly does live up to that nickname. He will face any opponent, accept any challenge, and he always gives 110 percent of himself.

My friends and I travel to many arenas to see matches, and everywhere we go Billy is always ready and willing to sign countless autographs and allow fans to take his picture. He is always very sociable. He is so wonderful with all the boys and girls who look up to him.

Billy, my friends and I hope you realize just how much you mean to everyone here in Florida. It is great to have such an outstanding wrestler and man in our state. Don't ever leave, because we all love you!

MARIE TROBICH
Englewood, FL

ALL RIGHT, BOB ARMSTRONG

An open letter to Bob and Brad Armstrong:

I read Bob's message to Brad in the October 1984 issue of *The Wrestler* ("Bob Armstrong's Message To His Son Brad: 'DiBiase Is My Problem, Not Yours!' "), and I hope Brad read it, too. You know Brad, your dad is right. Let *him* worry about Ted DiBiase.

I have a lot of faith in your dad and you should, too. If any man takes care of DiBiase, Bob Armstrong is the one who will.

Listen to your dad, Brad. Make him proud, and he will get even with Ted DiBiase and make you proud. The fans are already proud of both of you!

JUDY GRONDIN
Federal Way, WA

BARRY IS BACK!

I've been a fan of Barry Windham's for a long time now. I've followed his career almost from the very beginning, and not once have I been disappointed in his performance in the ring.

Now, after over two years away from the Mid-Atlantic area, Barry is back with one goal on his mind—the United States heavyweight title.

Because of the way the title

(Continued on page 49)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

Precious Paul Ellering (standing at ringside) tries to direct referee Eldin Rich's attention away from The Road Warriors' double-teaming efforts against Baron Von Raschke. The Road Warriors are the new AWA World tag team champions.

The Road Warriors are the new AWA World tag team champions. **Hawk** and **Animal** defeated the team of **Baron Von Raschke** and **The Crusher** on August 25 in The Showboat hotel in Las Vegas to win their first world tag team championship.

"I just want to express my extreme admiration for a job superbly done," said the Warriors' manager, **Precious Paul Ellering**. "Upon entering the AWA in August, I had every confidence that Hawk and Animal would capture the World tag team belts by Labor Day. They fulfilled my expectations more than a week ahead of schedule, and for that they should be heralded by the wrestling world as truly the one team to define tag wrestling in the decade of the '80s. Quite simply, they are awesome."

The Warriors' win created a great deal of controversy throughout the AWA, and a protest over the decision has been filed with AWA President **Stanley Blackburn**. Here's what happened:

Von Raschke had Animal in the clawhold and was trying to power him to the mat. Hawk came into the ring to help his partner but was knocked down to the mat by Crusher. Ellering climbed onto the ring apron. As Crusher went to hit him, referee **Eldin Rich** intervened. Meanwhile, Hawk recovered from Crusher's blow and climbed the ropes in the corner just as Von Raschke dropped Animal to the canvas with his clawhold. Hawk flew off the ropes and dropped Von Raschke with a clothesline, then placed a groggy Animal on top of a nearly unconscious Von Raschke. Hawk fled from the ring as referee Rich turned away from Ellering to make the three-count.

And there's a lot more championship title news this month:

Ron Bass defeated **Angelo Mosca Jr.** for the Mid-Atlantic heavy-

(Continued on page 64)

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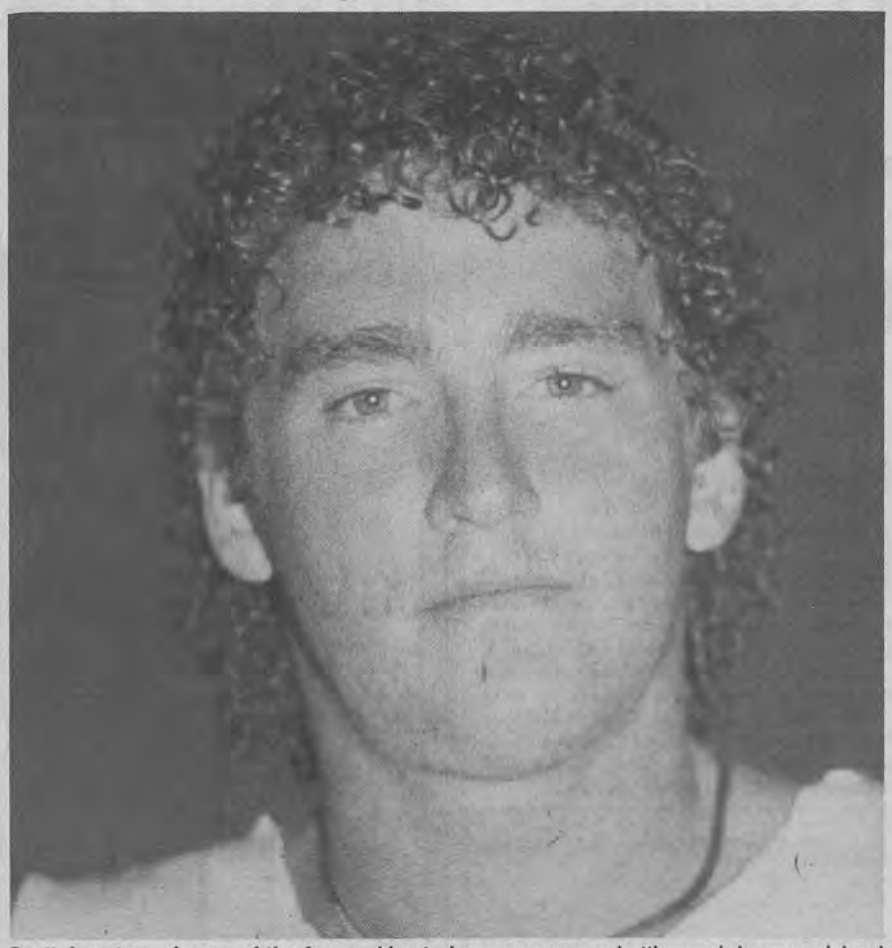
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did! Send your reports to: CORRESPONDENT EDITOR, BOX 48, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571.

Pensacola, Florida ***(Correspondent—*** **Nicole Thompson):** Rookie Scott Armstrong was the winner of the $10,000 pole battle royal. The event was spotted by the continuation of a number of rivalries, and an argument between tag team partners Arn Anderson and Jerry Stubbs that might develop into a full-scale feud.

It was, in fact, the argument between Anderson and Stubbs that led to Armstrong's climbing the pole mounted to the corner ringpost and grabbing the $10,000 check. Anderson had started up the pole and was pulled down by his partner. Stubbs and Anderson, the former Southeastern tag team champions, then began to argue, presumably about who would collect the prize money.



Scott Armstrong is one of the few rookies to have ever won a battle royal. In a special pole battle royal, Scott was able to climb a pole attached to a ringpost and grab the $10,000 check.

While they argued, Armstrong and Johnny Rich surprised them from behind and eliminated the tandem by throwing them over the top rope. While Tommy Gilbert and Boris Zurkhov were double-teaming The Tonga Kid, Armstrong climbed the pole and claimed the prize.

Armstrong's victory, besides netting him a $10,000 payday, makes the rookie a surprisingly valid consideration for a bout against NWA World champion Ric Flair.

In other bouts, Bob Armstrong defeated Zurkhov by disqualification . . . Austin Idol defeated Tommy Rogers by disqualification . . . Mr. Wrestling I and Mr. Wrestling II defeated Jimmy Golden and Randy Penton . . . Rich, Armstrong, and Tonga Kid beat Gilbert, Anderson, and Stubbs.

Los Angeles, California ***(Correspondent—*****Michael Lloyd):** In the main event at the Olympic Auditorium, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka defeated Roddy Piper by disqualification in one of a series of matches that was to settle the feud between these two men.

The Superfly gained control of the early stages of the match with karate thrusts, punches, and kicks. The fans cheered as Snuka stunned Piper with a series of chops that finally sent him to the canvas. "Rowdy Roddy" retaliated with closed-fist punches.

The action spilled out of the ring and onto the arena floor. Piper grabbed a ringside chair and slammed it over Snuka's head. Snuka returned the punishment by slamming Piper's head into the steel ringpost, opening a cut on Roddy's head.

Back in the ring, the two men battled toe to toe. Piper, losing blood, gradually wilted. Sensing defeat, Roddy threw the referee into Snuka.

(Continued on page 54)

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These studies should be available at your local library. If not, ask your local physician.

(1) Orentreich, N.: Medical treatment of baldness. Ann Plast Surg 1: 116-118, 1978. (2) Rizer, R. L.; Orentreich, N. & Finch, C. E.: Testosterone metabolism in human scalp and beard hair follicles. In *The First Human Hair Symposium*, edited by A. C. Brown, pp. 346-362. Medcom Press, 1974. (3) Mauvais-Jarvis, P., Kuttenn, F. & Baudot, N.: Inhibition of testosterone conversion to dihydrotestosterone in men treated percutaneously by progesterone. J. Clin Endochrinol Metab 38: 142-147, 1974

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion

Robert Gibson and Rick Morton hope to get revenge against Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express in the Mid-South.

Q: "My question is for the Rock 'n' Roll Express, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson: I thought it was terrible when you had to leave the Mid-South. All the fans know that the Midnight Express cheated to beat you in the loser-leave-town match. When the 90-day suspension period is over, will you be coming back? I really hope so."—Christy Ainsworth, Oak Grove, LA

A: Rick Morton answered, "We miss you and all the Mid-South fans. You treated us so well, we feel like we let you all down when we lost that match. But I hope we'll be able to come back and whip Cornette and the Express for the great Mid-South fans. You should know that we're busy defending the Mid-Southern tag belts right now, but I assure you that we'll get revenge, for us and for all of you."

***

Q: "I have a question for Dusty Rhodes: Why don't you have a movie made about your life? I would like to know everything about your life: your childhood, how you got started in wrestling, etc. I'm sure all of your fans would love it."—Mary Richergh, Homerville, GA

Dusty Rhodes likes the idea of having his life story portrayed in a motion picture. Of course, he would be the star.

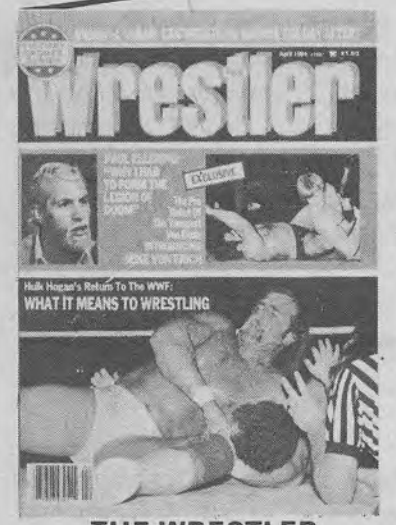
A: "It would be a dream of a motion picture," Dusty replied. "I can just see it now. The cameras pan across the Texas plain and there he is—the young, virile Dusty Rhodes, digging ditches with my friend T.C. Lee. The sun's beating down on T.C. and me, the sweat's pouring off of us. And I turn to T.C. and I say, 'I'm gonna make it, T.C. I'm gonna be the champion of the world, and then we'll never have to dig another ditch again.' Then the cameras will follow my life until that night in Tampa, Florida, when I beat Harley Race for the title. Now that's drama. Of course, I'll play myself, and when I win the Oscar I'll thank my momma and my daddy and T.C. and all my fans, 'cause without you there is no Dream."

***

Q: "My question is for Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton, the Midnight Express: I think you're a great tag team, but I

(Continued on page 56)

WRESTLING'S GREATEST SUBSCRIPTION DEAL



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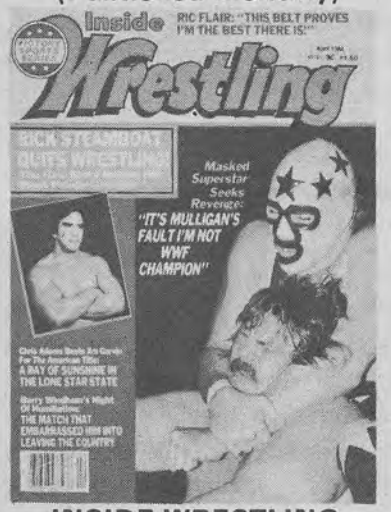

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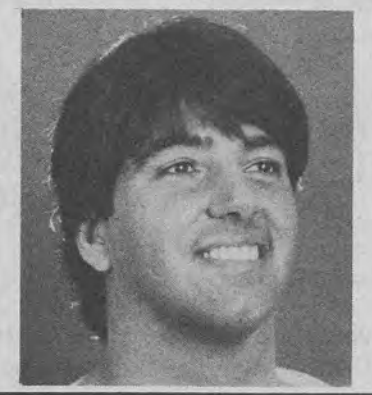
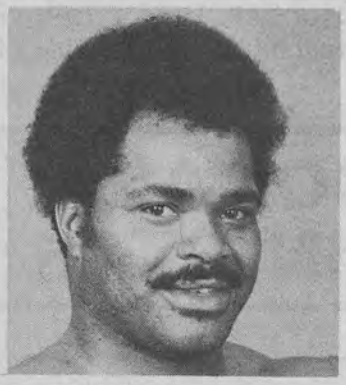
Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

Thumbs Up to Billy Jack: The man known throughout the wrestling world as "The People's Choice" recently appeared on televised Florida wrestling in a unique role. Billy Jack asked viewers to help with *Championship Wrestling From Florida's* missing children appeal. Each week, *CWF* airs missing children bulletins, broadcasting photos and information of several missing youngsters within the *CWF* viewing area. Billy Jack's support of this important program is admirable and worthy of great respect.



Thumbs Up to Rick Martel: This deserving young AWA World champion has not backed away from the repeated challenges of former champion Nick Bockwinkel. It would have been very easy for Martel to petition the AWA ratings committee claiming that he had given Bockwinkel enough matches, but Martel has refused to do this. "I want to wrestle all deserving contenders as many times as possible," Martel said.



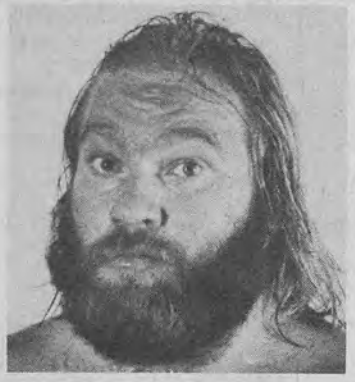
Thumbs Up to Pistol Pez Whatley: Whatley, after a successful stint in Georgia, has arrived in Florida and has quickly become one of that state's most popular wrestlers. With fans screaming their support, the "Pistol Man" captured one of the top prizes in professional wrestling, the Southern heavyweight championship, when he defeated Jim "The Anvil" Neidhardt. Whatley has once again shown the wrestling world that he is worthy of his superstar status. Congratulations, Pez!

Thumbs Up to Precious Paul Ellering: You might not like the bragging nature of the leader of the "Legion of Doom," but you cannot doubt his talent. Ellering predicted that his Road Warriors would win the AWA World tag team championship by Labor Day. He was only nine days off. The Warriors beat Crusher and Baron Von Raschke for the belts on August 25 in Las Vegas. Their quick rise in the AWA tag team rankings and subsequent title victory are a testament to Ellering's managerial genius.

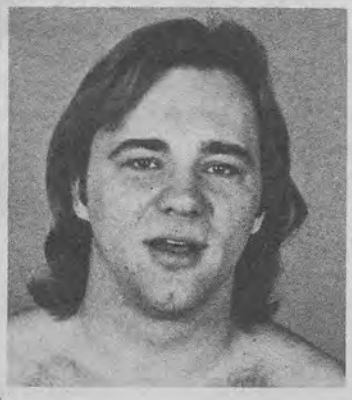
Thumbs Down

Thumbs Down to Eddie Gilbert: It's sad to see a promising young athlete resort to such tactics as using a heavy steel chain against an opponent in order to win a title. In this case, the title was the Mid-Southern International heavyweight title, and the opponent was Gilbert's former tag team partner, Tommy "Wildfire" Rich. Gilbert was beating Rich with a chain during the match until referee Paul Morton threw it out of the ring. But then Gilbert got a second chain, from Jimmy Hart, and used it to attack Rich a second time! Thumbs down not only to Gilbert, but to Jimmy Hart as well.

Thumbs Down to Kevin Sullivan: This self-avowed Satan worshiper continues to maintain his hideous dominance of the Florida wrestling scene. Most recently, Sullivan has taken Mike Davis and turned him into . . . "The American Dream—Dusty Rhodes!" To assert that Davis is the one and only Dusty Rhodes is absurd. Virgil Riley Runnels—the *real* Dusty Rhodes—deserves to receive the respect of everyone in wrestling, *including* Kevin Sullivan. This charade with Mike Davis is an insult to Dusty's remarkable career.



Thumbs Down to Big John Studd: Studd, who is currently challenging for Hulk Hogan's WWF title, is still claiming that he has never been bodyslammed. Fans in many parts of the country, including a sellout crowd at New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena, have seen Studd slammed by Andre the Giant. Studd must believe the fans are blind, or maybe he feels they are just too stupid to remember. He is doing nothing more than boring us with this false claim.



Thumbs Down to Larry Zbyszko: "The New Living Legend," as he likes to be called, entered the AWA confident that he would quickly rise to prominence. Zbyszko underestimated the talent in the AWA, however. His quick rise and supposed title takeover have been stunted. Zbyszko's arrogance has finally gotten the best of him. Hopefully, he will learn from his mistakes. Unfortunately, he probably won't. □

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June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

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September 1975/Stories include: Valiants, Humperdink, Sammartino, Lanza.

November 1975/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Valentines, Tanaka.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

March 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Putski, Lawler.

June 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Putski, Patera, Bruiser.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

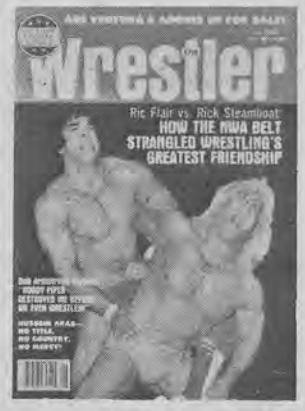
June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

March 1978/Stories include: Graham, Flair, Rich, Patera.



JUNE 1982

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

March 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, Rhodes, Maivia.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Graham, Piper, Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

MARCH 1984

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Hogan, Rich, Andre.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

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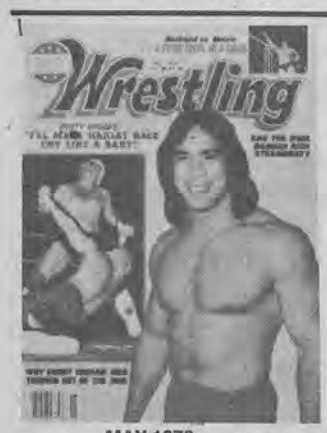

MAY 1979

April 1974/Stories include: Murdoch, Koloff, Sammartino, Strongbow.

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

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January 1976/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Ladd, Putski.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

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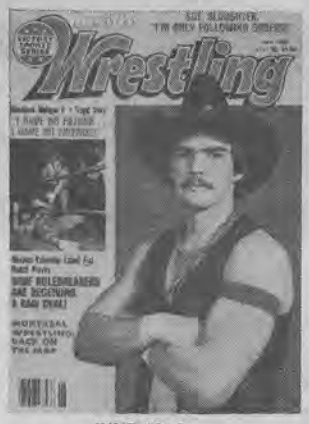

JUNE 1982

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

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October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

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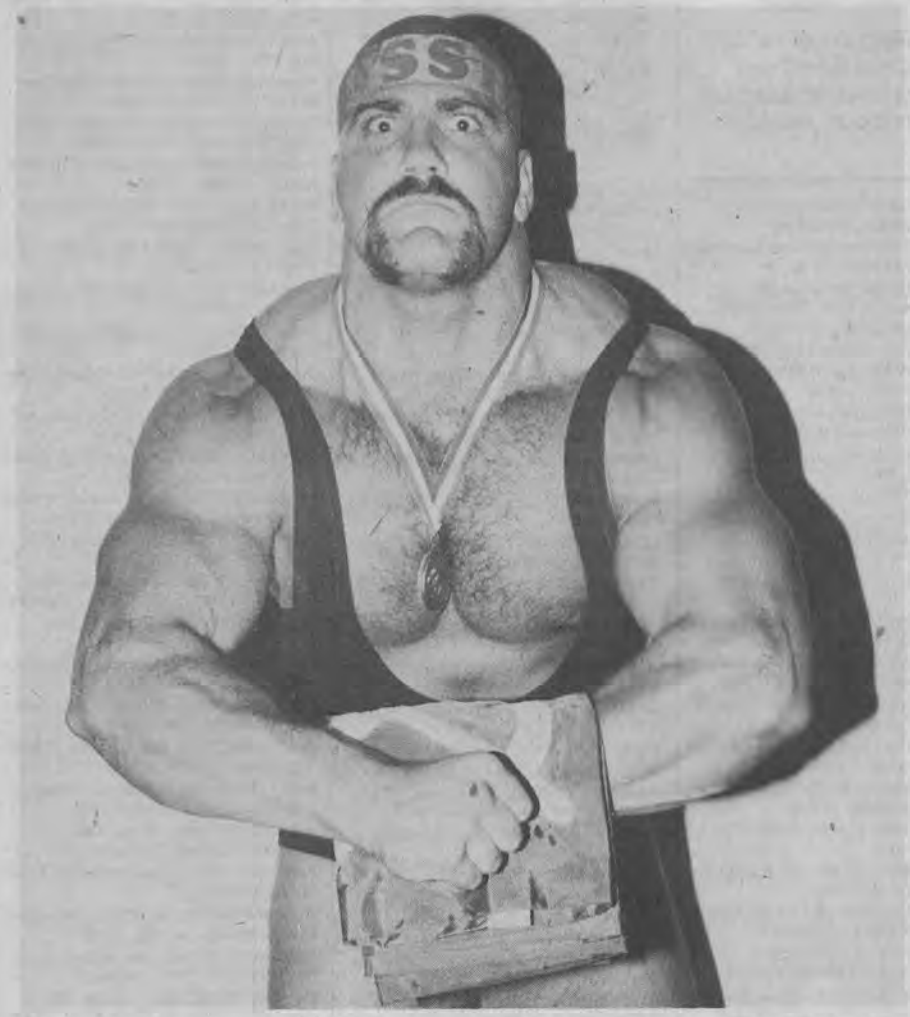
INTRODUCING NIKITA KOLOFF



NIKITA KOLOFF KNELT in front of a padded bench, his arms outstretched and his palms facing up. In each hand was a 40-pound dumbell. The sweat poured from his forehead as he curled his wrists toward the ceiling, and then back down.

"Fourteen, 15, 16, 17 . . ." He exhaled audibly after each count, straining to complete 20 repetitions. As he attempted the 20th and final rep, the dumbell in his left hand slipped from his grasp.

Ivan Koloff, Nikita's uncle, stopped his count and began barking what seemed to be a reprimand. He spoke quickly and loudly in his native Russian. The two communicate only in Russian, and besides, Nikita's English is poor at best. Ivan's raspy baritone echoed off the walls of the gym. Nikita sat there motionless, accepting his punishment quietly.

The elder Koloff would not reveal what he said to his nephew. "Not for American ears," he said. "Personal. None of your business."

He returned to Nikita, whose forearm muscles bulged like Popeye's. He took each arm separately and rolled them between his hands. "Soreness is buildup of lactic acid," Ivan said. "Massage, heat, whirlpool will help." He turned to his nephew and barked, "Squats."

Ivan's NWA World tag team partner, Don Kernodle, watched the training session from a stool in the corner of the gym. "He's doing a lot of forearm work. The harder those forearms are, the more effective the cobra clutch is. That forearm presses right into the carotid artery."

Kernodle is Nikita's manager of record, but he leaves the training to Uncle Ivan. "The Soviets are so far advanced in training methods," Kernodle said. "Their workouts are so much more intense. That's why you see Russians dominating the athletic world. If they had come to the Olympics, there's no doubt that America would have suffered."

Nikita was one of the Russians who suffered because his country did not attend the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles. When the Soviet Union boycotted the Games, Nikita, who was entered in an unprecendented combination of

(Continued on page 20)

Nikita Koloff is one of the most impressive rookies to enter the pro ranks in years. The 6'2", 275-pound nephew of Ivan Koloff has displayed awesome strength and a sound understanding of the sport's basics. Experts speculate that this would-be Olympian can become one of the most dangerous competitors the sport has ever seen

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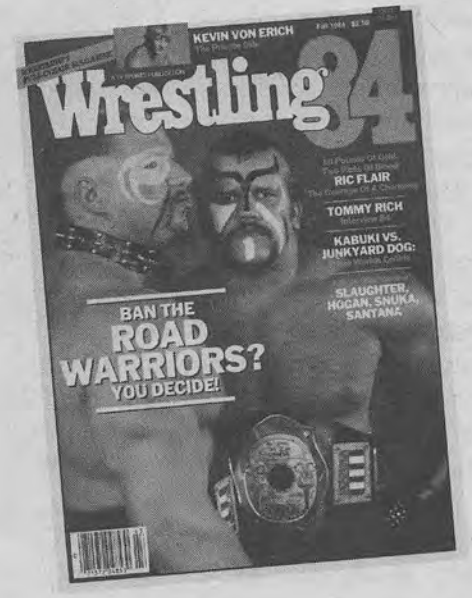

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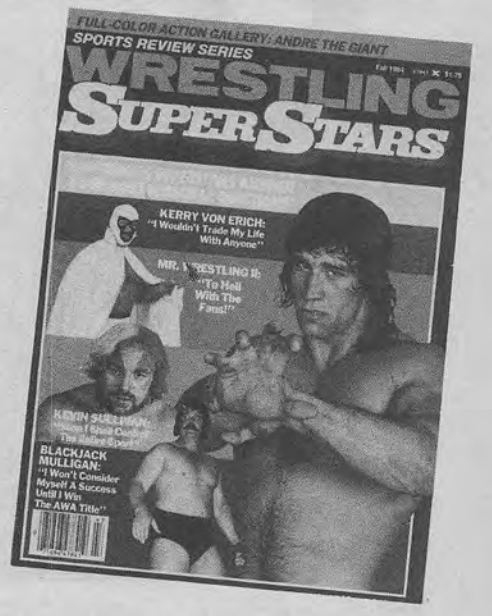

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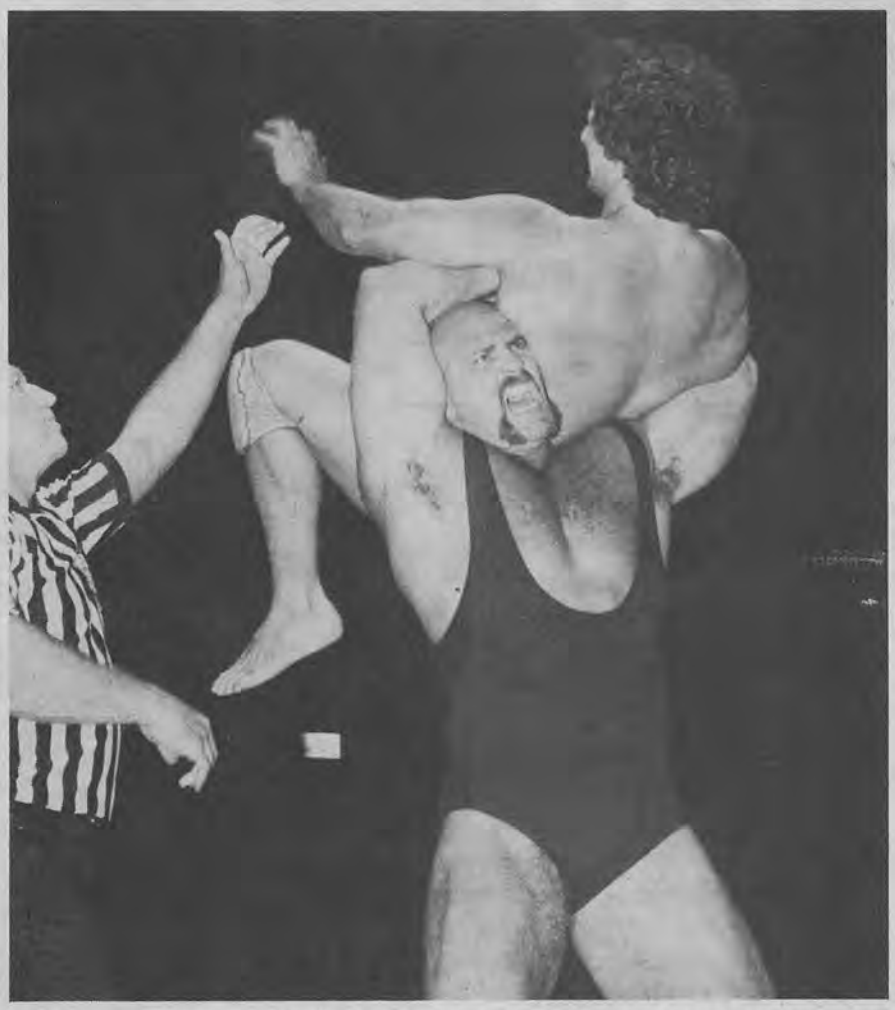
(Continued from page 18)



Nikita Koloff, an intense and determined young man, defeats Vinny Valentino with a Russian backbreaker.

events—wrestling, weightlifting, and the hammer throw—had the choice of holding on to his amateur status for another four years until the 1988 Games, or becoming a professional wrestler.

"Since he was a child in Russia," Kernodle explained, "he has been hearing about his uncle's success in America. Ivan is a hero there because he is a representative of Russia's superiority over the U.S.

"Nikita told Ivan that since he began wrestling as an amateur, his dream was to come to America and wrestle with his uncle," Kernodle continued. "He couldn't wait until after 1988."

Turning pro, however, would mean that Koloff would have to give up his chance to attain the most unusual gold medal triple in Olympic history. "Nikita would have loved the challenge, but it just wasn't possible," Kernodle said. "As soon as he made his decision, he contacted his uncle, and with my help, we got him to America."

The Soviet Union is not in the habit of letting its best athletes just leave the country. Just how Kernodle was able to bring Koloff to the United States is a mystery. "I have my connections," was all he would say.

Through his uncle's interpretation, Nikita expressed his immediate goals. "It is very important to Nikita that he wins matches and eventually wins titles," Ivan said. "But most important to him is to show the American people that Russia is superior to their country in every way."

In a recent bout against Vinnie Valentino (who gave away three inches in height and 50 pounds to Koloff) the Russian dominated the action from the opening bell. He attacked Valentino's left arm and shoulder immediately, practically wrenching the arm from the rest of his body with armbars and hammerlocks. The pain weakened Valentino, who despite attempts to battle back could do nothing to improve his position. He was eventually forced to succumb to Koloff's backbreaker.

Other bouts have ended similarly. Opponent Gary Royal said that Koloff's hiptoss was enough to convince him that he was overmatched. "I thought I could at least retain some dignity and give it a good fight," Royal said, "but he wouldn't even leave me that. This guy is brutal."

These preliminary matches, Kernodle said, are providing Koloff with invaluable experience, but they are also leading to a challenge of the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title. "The Mid-Atlantic title is a natural for Nikita," Kernodle said. "In fact, I would push for the match sooner, but Nikita and Ivan want to wait a little while.

"I feel that Nikita could handle a title shot right now, but by nature the Russian people are perfectionists. They don't like to fail. So if it means a few more wrestlers get the crap beat out of them on the way to Nikita's first championship, it really doesn't matter much. The Russian people are also very perseverant. He'll win that title. He'll get the job done."

On the other side of the gym, Nikita performed deep squats with a 450-pound barbell resting on his shoulders as his uncle counted the reps. "Yeah," Kernodle said, "he'll get the job done." □

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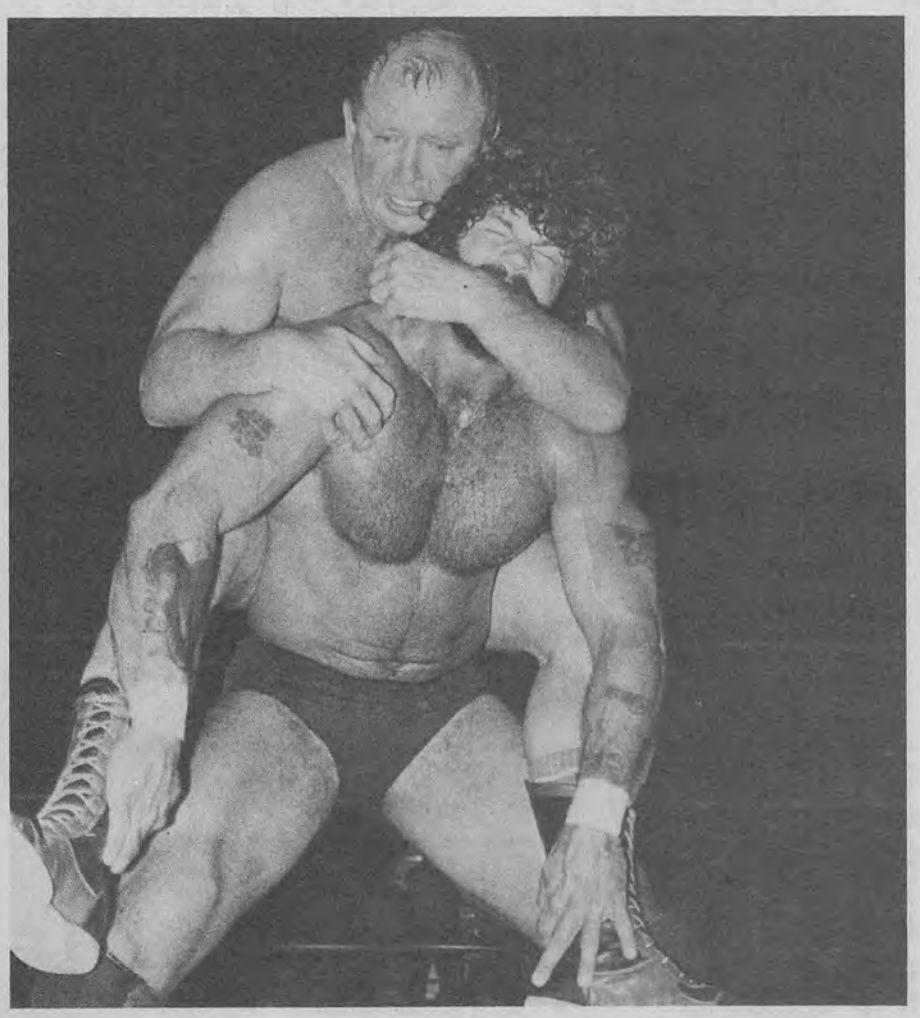


Q: You know, Dory, a lot of people are asking the same question that I'm about to ask you: Why? Why did you slap Billy Jack the way you did, particularly when he was right in the middle of complimenting you?

A: **You call being called "second-best" a compliment? Where I come from, that's an insult. I don't settle for second-best in anything, Apter. That snot-nosed punk Billy Jack was insulting me, and I don't take that kind of crap from anyone.**

Q: But it wasn't an insult, he was . . .

A: **And *particularly* I don't like being called second-best to that fat slob Dusty Rhodes. If Billy Jack considers Rhodes so much better than me, that doesn't say a whole hell of a lot for me, now, does it? Hell no.**

Q: So you thought you'd slap some sense into Billy Jack.

A: **I just reacted out of instinct.**

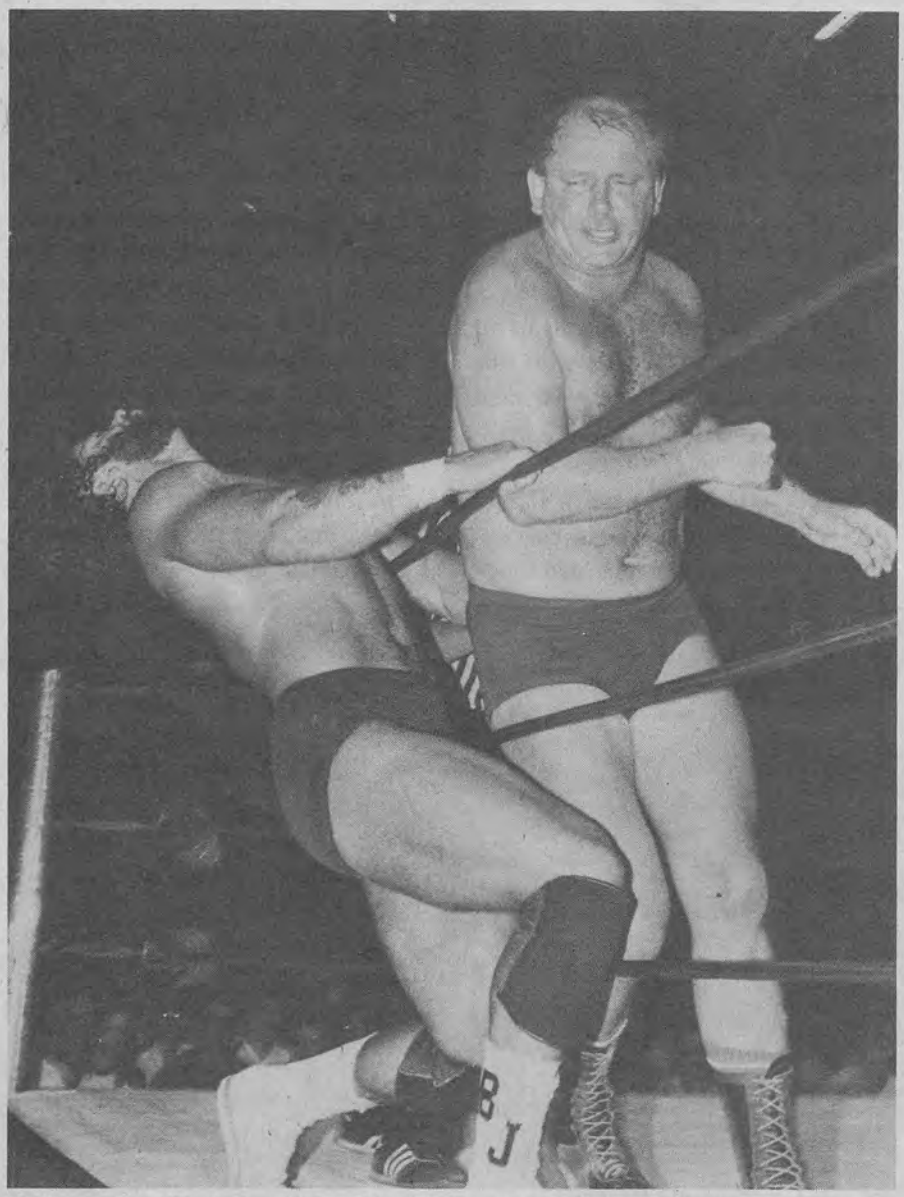
Q: Was it also your instinct that told you to slip a foreign object to Black Bart when he was wrestling Billy Jack?

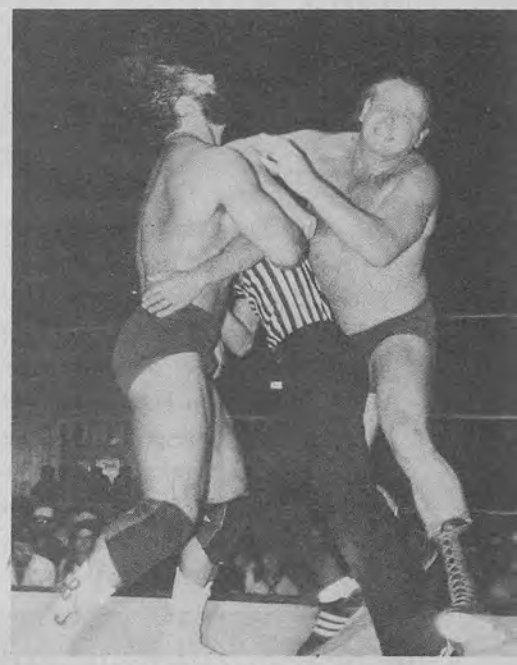
A: **My instinct tells me to do a lot of things.**

Q: Now wait a second. I was at ringside shooting photos of that match, and I recall Billy Jack grabbing Black Bart at the end of that match and demanding to know who gave him the object. And Bart

DORY FUNK JR.

DORY FUNK JR. has returned to the Florida wrestling scene following an absence of nearly three years. Funk, the most unpopular wrestler in Florida during most of his four-year reign as NWA World champion from 1969 through 1973, is once again a hated man in the Sunshine State. All Funk had to do to regain his previous status was become involved in an ugly feud with "The People's Choice" Billy Jack. Billy Jack has always admired Funk. During a TV interview, he told Dory that next to Dusty Rhodes he admired him more than any other wrestler. Funk, taking exception to the comparison with "The American Dream," slapped Billy in the face. The incident has sparked a bitter series of matches between the two men. Senior Editor Bill Apter spoke to Funk recently about the feud and other developments in his career.





Funk rams into Billy Jack, trying to drive him from the ring apron (above). The referee tries to step between the two enraged athletes (top right). Funk mounts Billy's back and tries to loosen some teeth with his left arm (opposite page).

screamed: "Funk, Funk, Funk!"

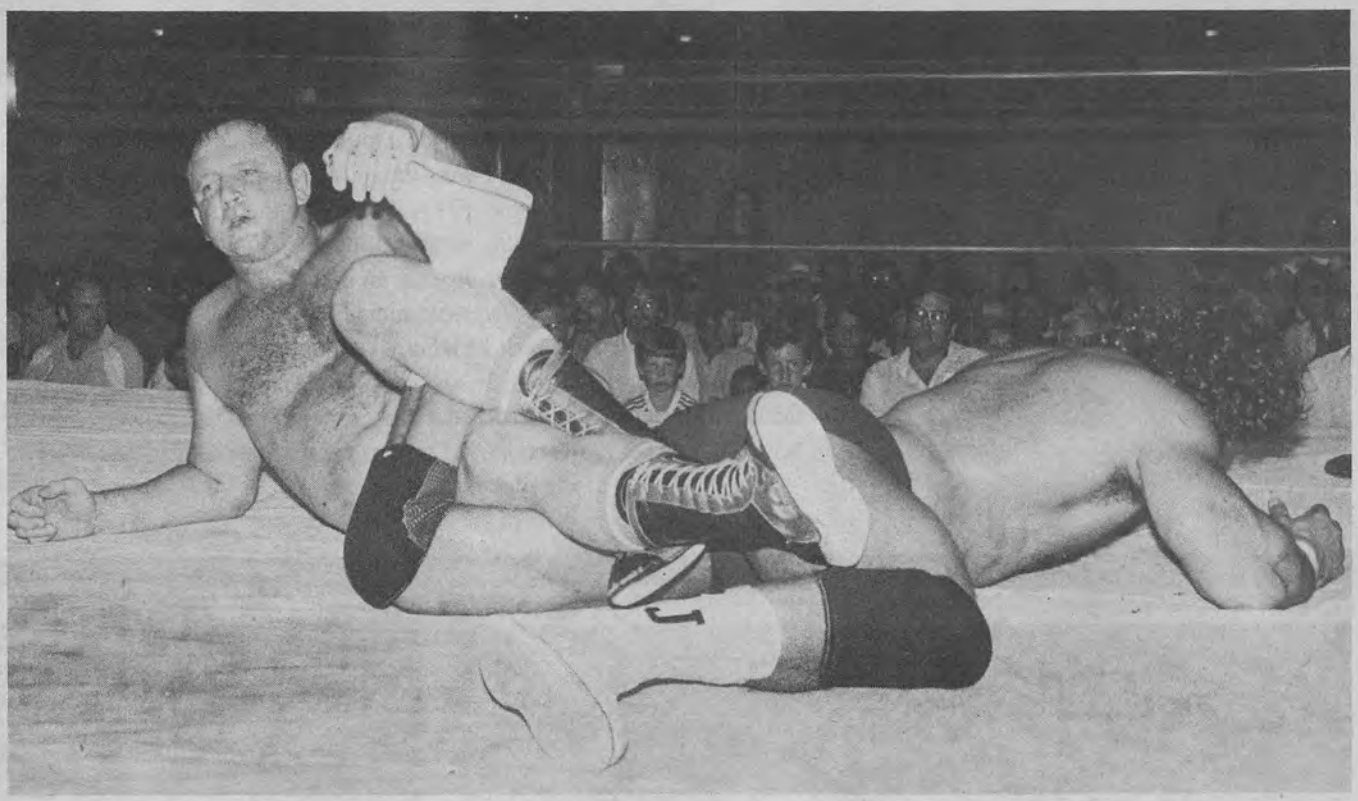
A: Yeah, well, what do you expect? Billy Jack was manhandling him, and he'd say anything to escape a beating, right?

Q: So you deny handing the object to Black Bart?

A: Not at all. I gave the object to Black Bart, and I'll give other objects to other wrestlers in other matches until Billy Jack finally learns to keep his fool mouth shut.

Q: Now wait a second . . .

A: No! *You* wait a second. This kid comes into Florida, starts getting all kinds of cheers from fans, all kinds of admiration from other wrestlers, all kinds of press cover-



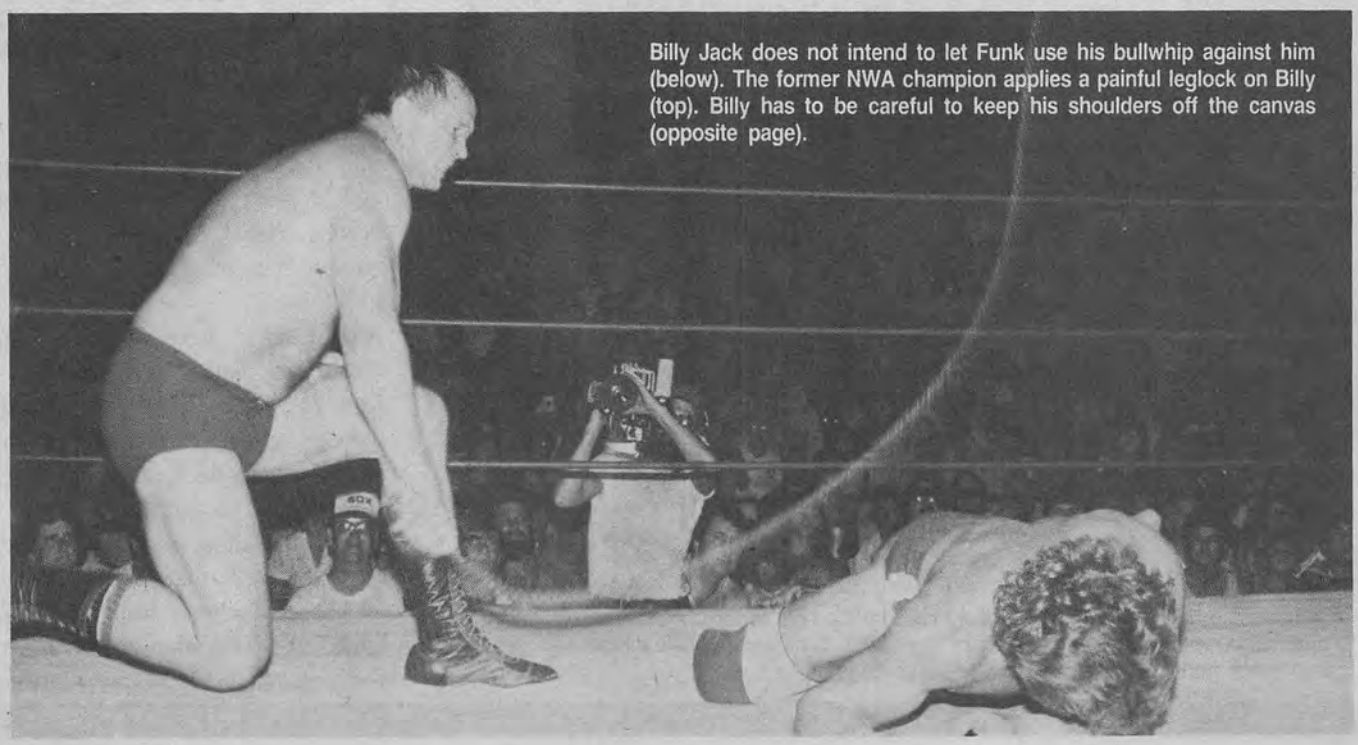
age. Then he starts talking like he owns the place, making all kinds of value judgments about people. This kid is a snot-nosed rookie, and he's got to learn respect for other people. I slapped him because he was showing me disrespect, and he shows disrespect to almost everyone he wrestles. I aim to whip some respect into this kid.

Q: By slipping foreign objects to his opponents and using your bullwhip on him every chance he gets?

A: **By proving to him that there's a hell of a lot more to the sport of wrestling than the cheers of the fans, a couple of cheap wins, and a lot of empty talk.**

Q: Sounds like you're jealous.

A: **Jealous? Of what? I am a former NWA World heavyweight champion. I have proven time and again that I am a force to be reckoned with on the wrestling scene. And what has Billy Jack proven? That he can lose something like the Florida heavyweight title to Superstar Billy Graham and not even bother to muster a moderately respectable challenge to regain that title? That he can win over the cheers of the fans and then disappoint them by losing that belt?**



Billy Jack does not intend to let Funk use his bullwhip against him (below). The former NWA champion applies a painful leglock on Billy (top). Billy has to be careful to keep his shoulders off the canvas (opposite page).

Q: I don't think that's very fair. Billy Jack has proven his worth as a wrestler many times. He's young, and he's still got a long way to go in this sport, and he's . . .

A: But that's exactly my point! He's a young punk rookie with a long way to go. But he doesn't think that, and that's my job: to teach him that he *does* have a long way to go.

Q: And you've achieved that goal in your series of matches with him?

A: I think my series of matches with Billy Jack has begun to make a point, yes. Because Billy Jack is beginning to learn. I've pinned him clean in several matches, and . . .

Q: Now it's your turn to wait a second. I saw one of your matches with Billy Jack, and you used the ropes for leverage to score a pin.

A: The referee scored a three-count pinfall. Period. If he didn't see any feet on the ropes, then I have to abide by the referee's decision and say that there *weren't* any feet on the ropes.

Q: Look, this is getting ridiculous.

A: I agree. Talk is useless, it's action in the ring that counts. You just sit back and watch, because I'm going to be whipping some sense into that punk. He'll learn to respect me, and he'll learn it the hard way. □

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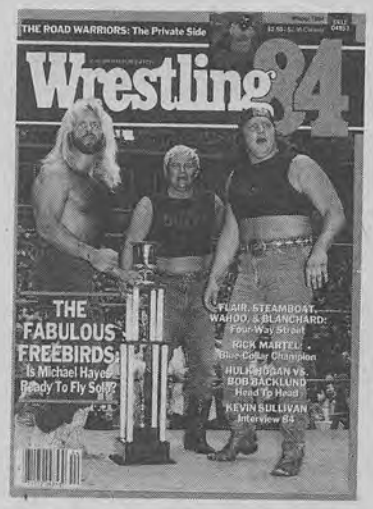

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THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

KING KONG BUNDY

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

King Kong Bundy might weigh 420 pounds, but it would be a mistake to consider him anything but a superb athlete. He moves that 420 pounds like another wrestler might move 210. And that makes him doubly dangerous. Above, Ronnie Garvin is the victim of Bundy's "big splash."

BRUNO SAMMARTINO
"I have never been able to understand how someone who is enormously overweight could actually function as a professional wrestler. I watched Haystacks Calhoun do it for years and I never understood it. Bundy may not be as big as Haystacks, but once you get beyond a certain weight, I guess it doesn't really matter. I'll tell you though, once he covers you, you better be pretty strong if you're gonna kick out from under 420 pounds."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.

VERNE GAGNE
"The one thing about these big wrestlers is that they really can't surprise you with wrestling styles. You can be pretty sure that a guy like King Kong Bundy isn't going to catch you in a flying headscissors. His weight gives him obvious advantages, however. For one, he's hard to lift. It's hard for me to understand since my best weapons, speed and agility, were so opposite from his. As long as he wins, how can you argue?"

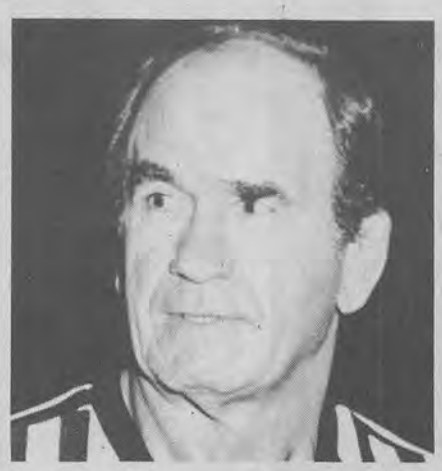
Verne Gagne held the AWA title a record 11 times. He was named "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.

GENE KINISKI
"I was pretty worried about Bundy for a while. It looked like he was going the way of a lot of other brainless big men like Haystacks Calhoun and Gorilla Monsoon, who decided to wrestle for the fans and not for themselves. Now it seems he's back on the right track with Jimmy Hart as his manager. Hart already helped him win a title, and I think that's only the beginning. If he plays his cards right, Bundy could become a legend."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.

BUDDY ROGERS
"I'll tell ya boy, I've seen King Kong Bundy wrestle a few times and I've just been amazed at how much athletic ability he has for a man his size. He might not be Antonino Rocca, but he can move around better than you would think a 420-pounder could. What bothers me now is that he's hooked up with this Jimmy Hart character in Tennessee. Hart's a low-down criminal, and under his influence, Bundy could develop into one himself."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



LOU THESZ
"It seems to me that King Kong Bundy knows two things. The first one is anger. That drove him into his feud with The Road Warriors. The other is money, which is why he signed to wrestle for Jimmy Hart. I feel that to really be successful in wrestling, you have to love the sport. Does he love money more? Does anger come before both? The mark of a great wrestler is if he'd be willing to wrestle for free. I don't think Bundy would."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

EDDIE GRAHAM
"Sure, King Kong Bundy wins his share of matches, but I think it's 95 percent because of his size. Look at his background. He has no amateur wrestling training. He was a bouncer in a bar before he became a wrestler. I don't think that's adequate training for a career in the ring. It would be nice to say that he's learned a lot about wrestling since he started, but all he really does is beat men up. He's not a wrestler."

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title for more than 20 years.

"Tony Atlas is incredible. He must work out in his sleep. He's easily the most dedicated man in wrestling, there is absolutely no doubt about it. But . . . "

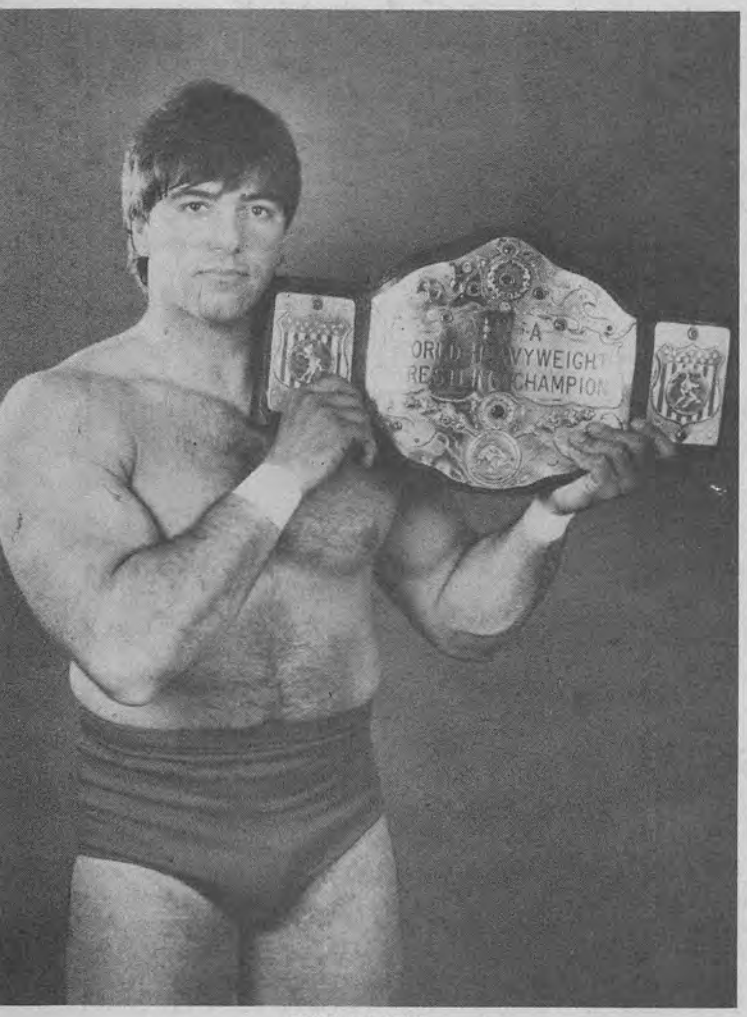
"Rick Martel has brought class back to the AWA title. Nick Bockwinkel almost sunk that title into the sewer when he held it. Rick has made it a classy title again. He's a great wrestler, a great scientific wrestler. But . . . "

" . . . But this is my title. And no one is going to take it away from me."

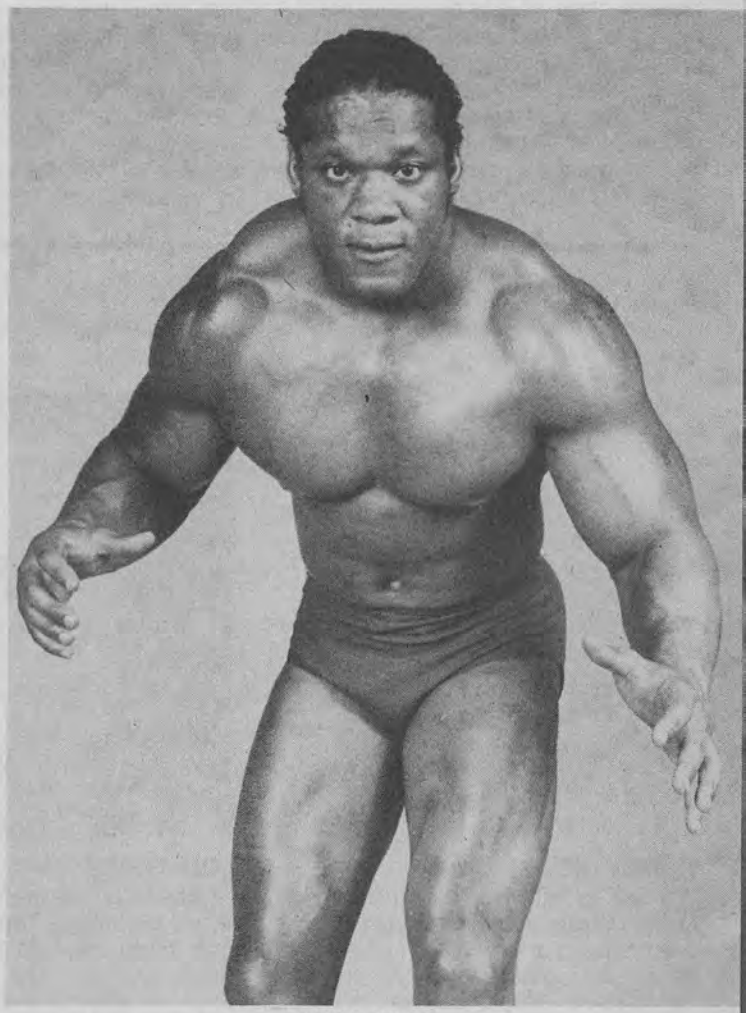
" . . . But I want that belt, and I plan to take it."

AWA World Champion Rick Martel vs. Tony Atlas

THE SHOWDOWN THAT MUST HAPPEN!

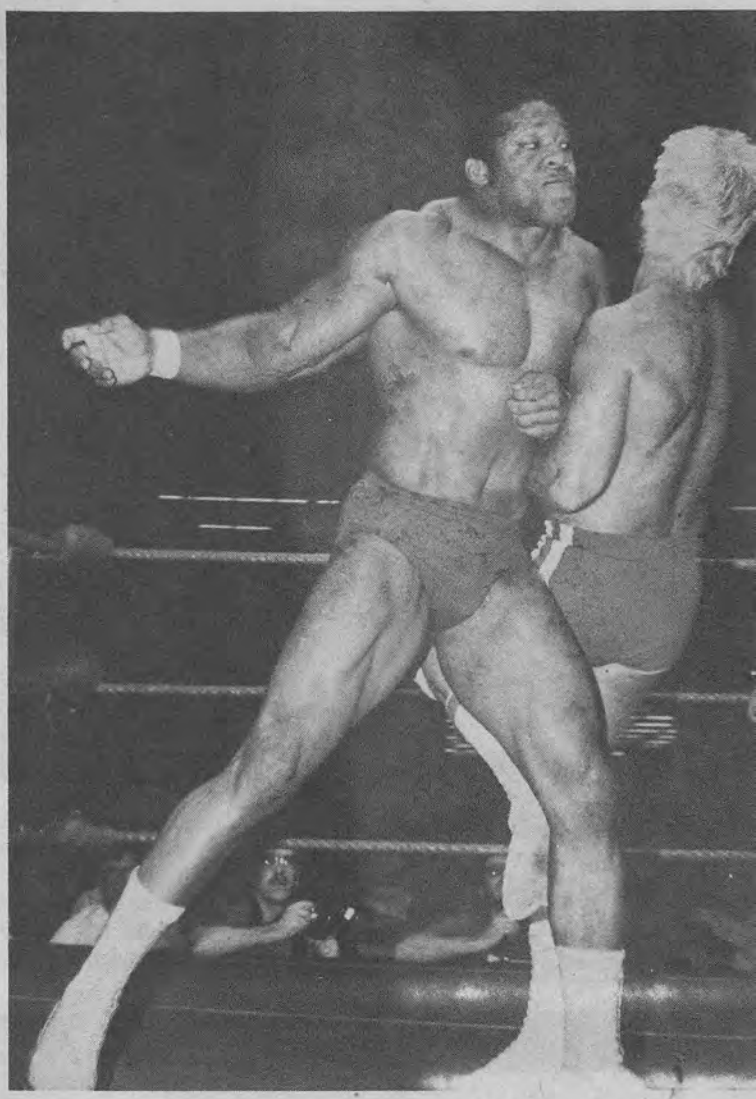


RICK MARTEL



TONY ATLAS

Rick Martel has fought back the challenges of former champions Nick Bockwinkel and Jumbo Tsuruta, proving that his AWA title victory in May was no fluke. To prove his greatness, however, the experts and the fans agree that Martel must defeat "Mr. U.S.A." Tony Atlas. It's a match everyone, including the wrestlers, is looking forward to



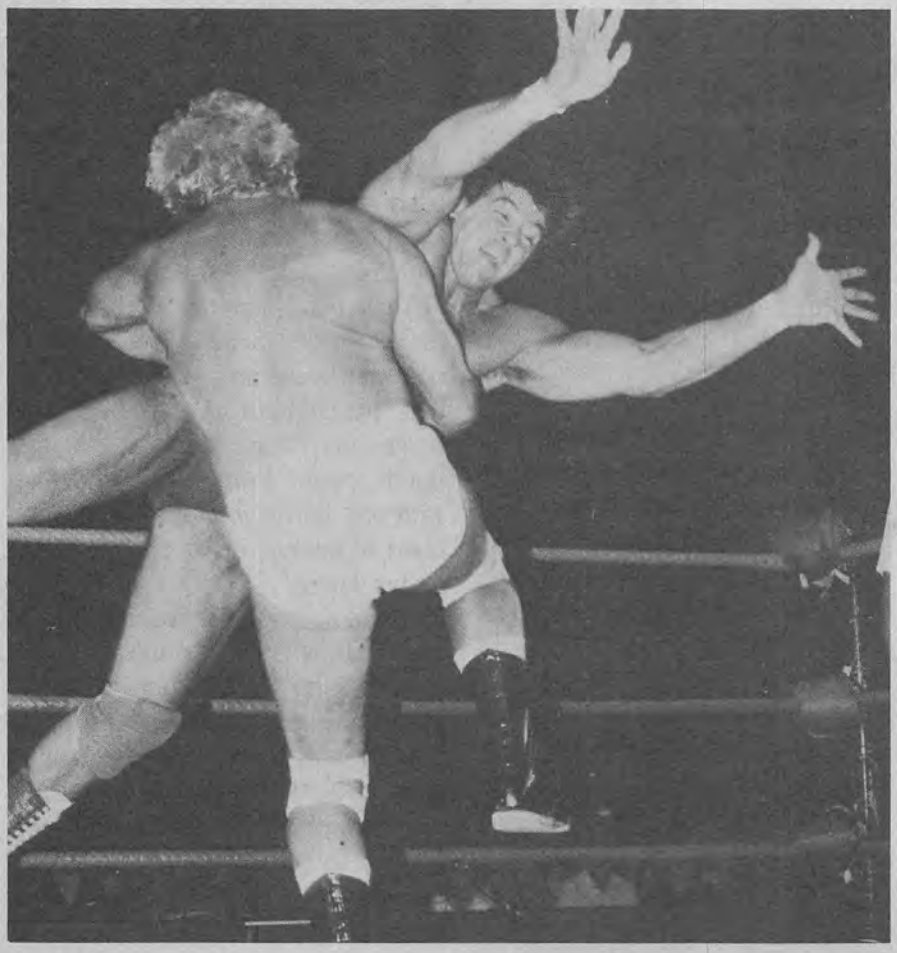
Atlas, who prides himself on his physical development and strength, lowers Steve Regal to his knees (above) and drops his opponent with a shoulderblock (right). Martel airplane spins Nick Bockwinkel (below).

BOTH MEN ARE careful at first. They hesitate. They stare into each other's eyes, yet they know exactly how close their hands are to meeting.

Their hands interlock. Their eyes remain fixed. Slowly, but steadily, one man gains an advantage in this test of strength. Veins begin to bulge from his forearms as his hands push downward. Suddenly, with one primitive grunt and a final burst of energy, his opponent drops to his knees.

Standing before a kneeling Steve Regal, Tony Atlas continues to apply pressure. He looks down as his victim writhes in pain. Atlas' face breaks into a wide, toothy smile. Atlas loves for his opponents to test his strength. Time after time they fall the same way Regal has. Atlas' strength is his greatest asset, and he is proud of that fact.

Atlas possesses tremendous agility for a man so muscular. Here, he armdrags Regal to the mat (left). Martel weakens Bockwinkel with his abdominal stretch (above). Rick stuns the former AWA champion with a cross-bodyblock (below).



Atlas' smile is only rivalled by that of another AWA star, whose grin is noticeable almost all the time: when he walks into the ring, when he flusters an opponent with a series of armdrags, when he lands a dropkick flush on an opponents chin, and sometimes, when he's just sitting at home shining his AWA World championship belt. Yes, Rick Martel is a happy man these days as well.

Both of these men can't keep smiling forever, however. Eventually, they are going to have to meet in the ring. And even if their match is clean and scientific, one man—the loser—will be a very unhappy man at its conclusion.

Since arriving in the AWA last July, Atlas has put together an impressive string of victories over opponents like Regal, Larry Zbyszko, and Mr. Saito. His ranking has moved from number 10 to number three in only one month, and his momentum is carrying him toward the number-one challenger's position to Martel's title.

As Atlas continues to win match after match, a growing number of fans are demanding that he receive a shot at Martel's title. "He deserves it," said Bob Franklin, a fan from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. "Tony is some wrestler. Look at him. More than that, watch him wrestle. He's beaten the best. He's earned a title shot. I just hope he gets it."

The legendary Verne Gagne, a nine-time AWA World champion, has been a vocal supporter of Martel's since the French Canadian won the title from Tsuruta in May. "No matter who has the belt, I'll always think of the AWA title as my belt," Gagne said. "Rick Martel is carrying on a great tradition that was almost destroyed by Nick Bockwinkel. Dignity has been restored to the title, and that makes me happy.

"I would love for to Rick hold the title for a long time," Gagne continued, "but I also want to see

(Continued on page 58)

How You Can Write To Tito Santana

SINCE THE WWF Intercontinental heavyweight title was formed back in 1979, only five men have worn the championship belt: Pat Patterson, Ken Patera, Pedro Morales (twice), Magnificent Muraco (twice), and Tito Santana.

Among them, the current WWF Intercontinental champion, Tito Santana, is being hailed by many WWF fans as the best.

Santana won the title on February 11, 1984, when he pinned Magnificent Muraco in Boston. In the months since his victory, Santana has become one of the most popular men in the entire WWF. Indeed, fans have flooded the offices of *The Wrestler* with letters

There are many fans of WWF wrestling who believe that Tito Santana is the greatest WWF Intercontinental champion ever. They would like to be able to tell him this in person, but that's just not possible. Now, *The Wrestler* offers the next best thing: You can write to Tito Santana and be certain that he will receive your mail!

asking the same question:

How can I write to Tito Santana?

"I think Tito is the cutest wrestler in the world today," writes Annie Maslin of Bronx, New York. "I was so happy when he won the Intercontinental belt, I cried for hours. He really deserves the title, certainly a lot more than that beach bum, Magnificent Muraco.

"I would give anything to be able to sit down and talk with Tito," Annie continues. "I would tell him exactly what I think of him, how much I admire him, how I think he's the best champion to ever wear that belt, and how I hope he'll win the WWF heavyweight belt someday.

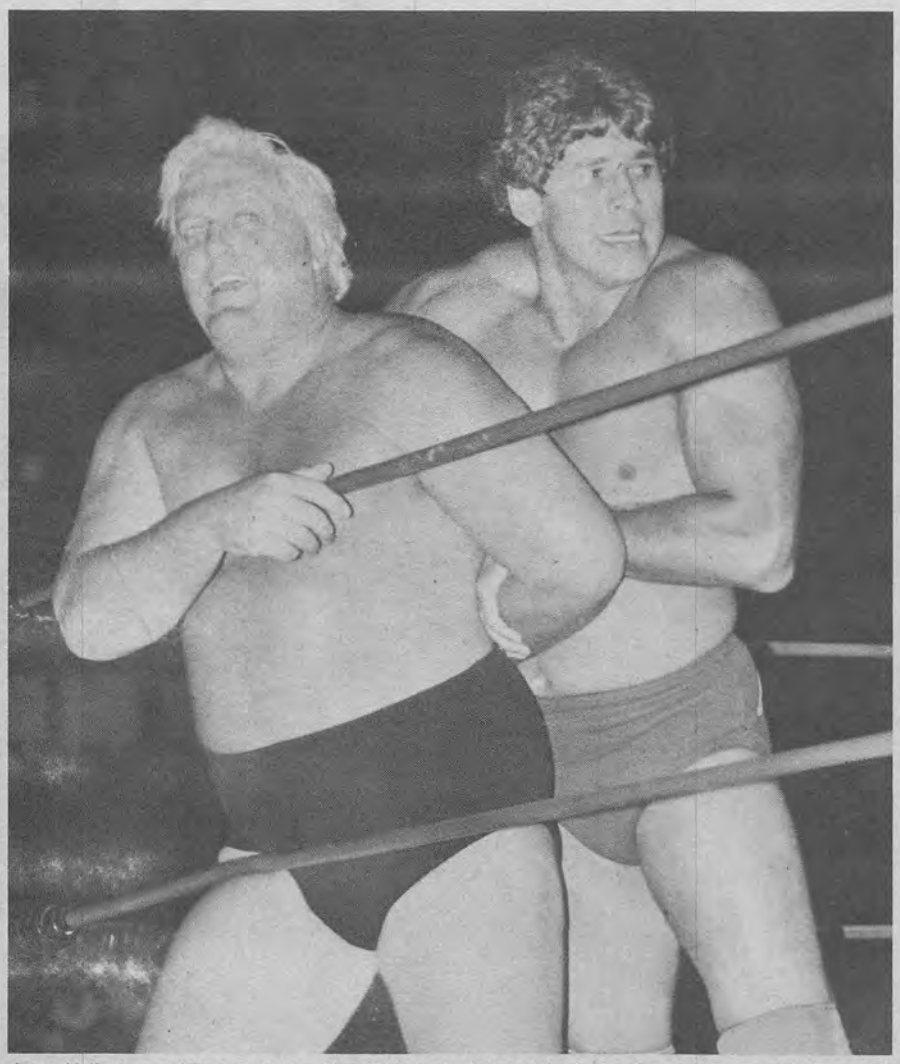
"Unfortunately," Annie realizes, "this will probably never happen. It's too bad, but I know that there are a lot of fans around the countrye who feel the same way I do. Of course, it would be totally impossible for Tito to meet with each and every one of us.

"So what I've done in the past is write letters to him. I send them to Madison Square Garden and other arenas, and hope that they'll be forwarded to Tito, but who knows? Maybe they get to him, maybe they get thrown out. I never know for sure.

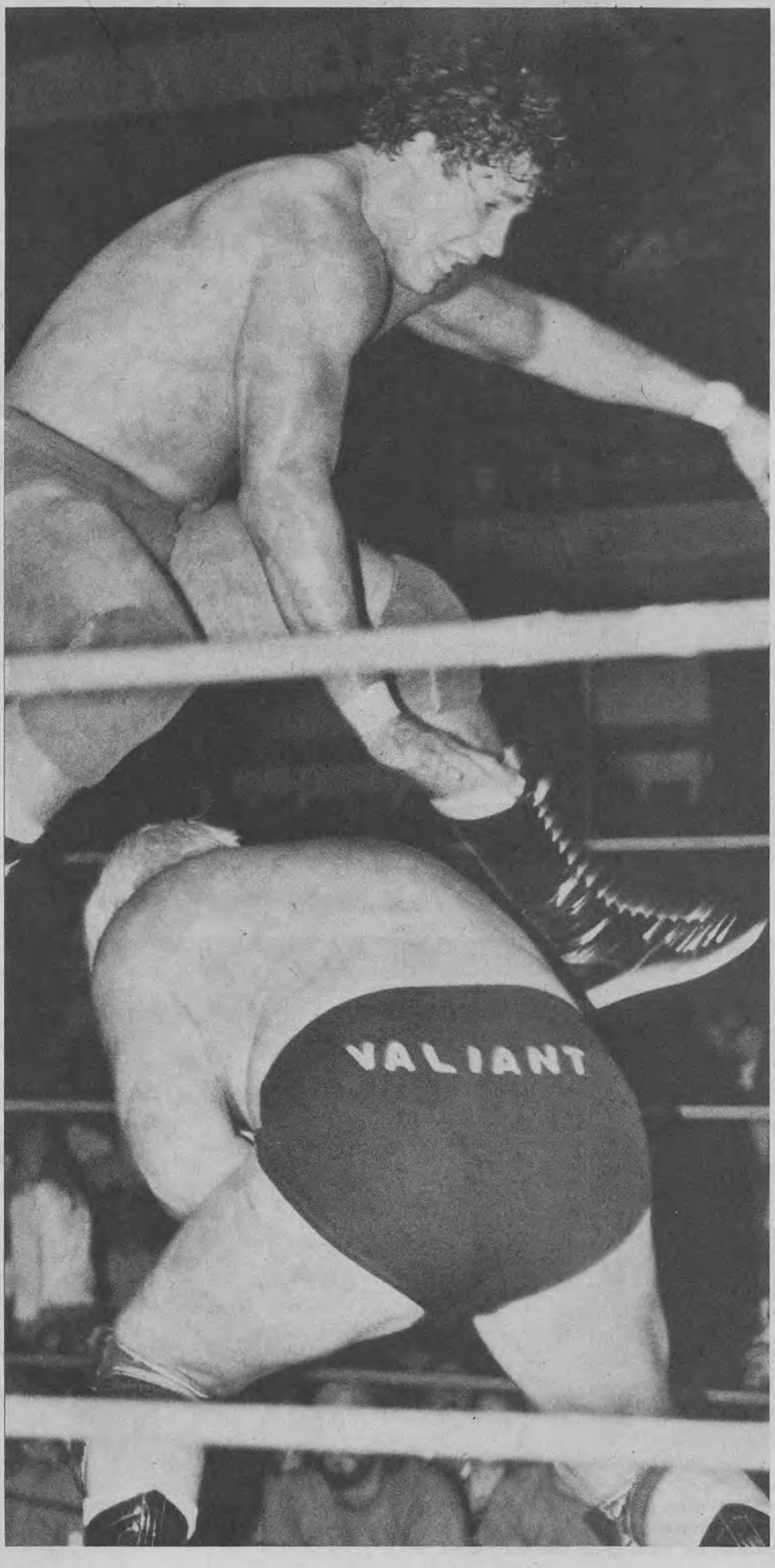
"That's why I'm writing to *The Wrestler*, because I hope that maybe you can provide me with an address to write to Tito where I know for sure he'll get my letter. Please, you must help me. I want to write to Tito so badly, and I don't know where else to turn."

Well, Annie, you've written to the right place. Because of letters like yours, *The Wrestler* has decided to forgo our usual policy of discouraging personal mail to wrestlers.

As a service to our readers, we will take all the personal mail for Tito Santana and forward those letters to



Jerry Valiant, unable to escape Tito Santana's hammerlock, is pleased to be able to get to the ropes to force a break (above). The WWF Intercontinental champion leaps over a charging Valiant (right).



him, making certain that he receives those letters personally.

"Generally, we have various addresses on different wrestlers and we try to forward personal mail to them as often as possible," Editor-in-Chief Peter King explains. "But sometimes wrestlers move around so much that it's impossible to deliver their mail. That's why we discourage fans from sending letters through the magazine.

"In this case, however, we're going to break our usual policy and invite Tito's fans to send letters for him to us," King continued. "We will then forward that mail to Tito personally.

Mail for Tito should be addressed to:
Tito Santana
c/o The Wrestler
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

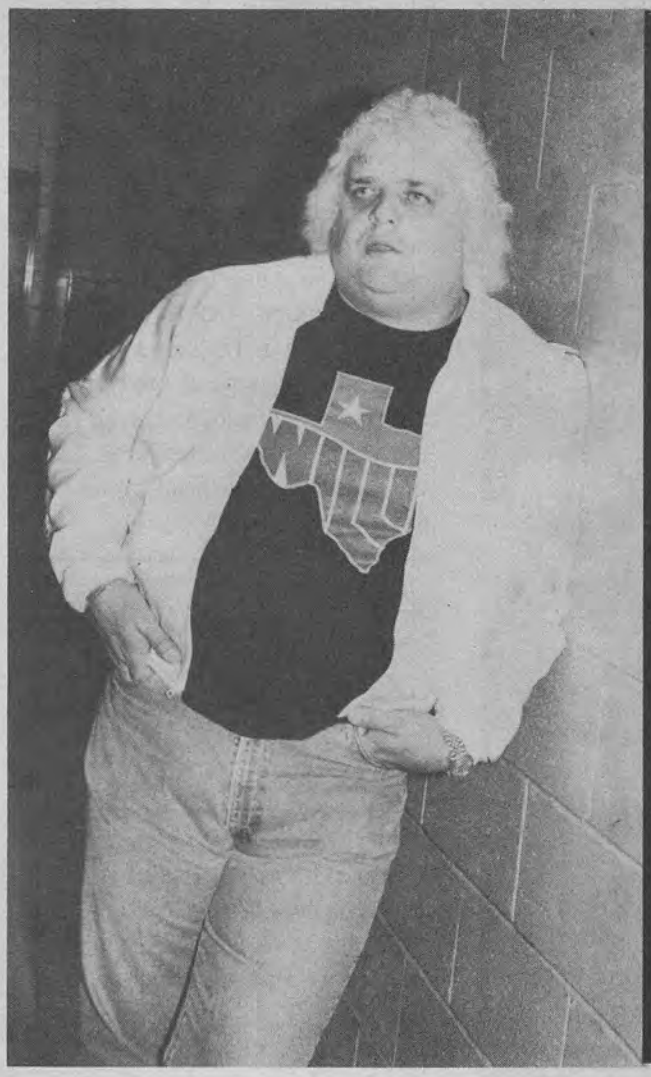
"What we're going to have to do in this case is establish a deadline," King said. "Usually, when we have any kind of a contest or a fan poll or anything else where we are asking our readers to send mail to us, we wind up receiving letters several months after the magazine has actually gone on sale at the newsstands.

"In this case, we're going to establish a deadline for letters to Tito," King continued. "This issue of *The Wrestler* goes on sale October 9, so the deadline for letters to Tito will be November 15. Any letters for Tito that we receive by November 15 will be guaranteed to be forwarded to him personally."

Indeed, this is a very unique opportunity for WWF wrestling fans. But then, Tito Santana is a most unique wrestler. He has legions of fans across the country, fans who are all waiting for the opportunity to let him know how they feel.

This is your opportunity to let Tito know how you feel. Write a letter to Tito to the address mentioned above, and as long as we receive it by November 15, you can be assured that it will be hand delivered to Tito Santana personally.

Arriba! □



The Tully Blanchard-Rick Steamboat Feud:

WILL DUSTY RHODES END IT . . . OR MAKE IT WORSE?

Dusty Rhodes has arrived in the Mid-Atlantic region and has landed in the middle of the biggest and most complex feud those fans have ever witnessed. Dusty has already pledged his support to Rick Steamboat against Tully Blanchard, but will his involvement help the fan favorite or just make the situation worse?

Photos by Floyd See

By Joseph Bua

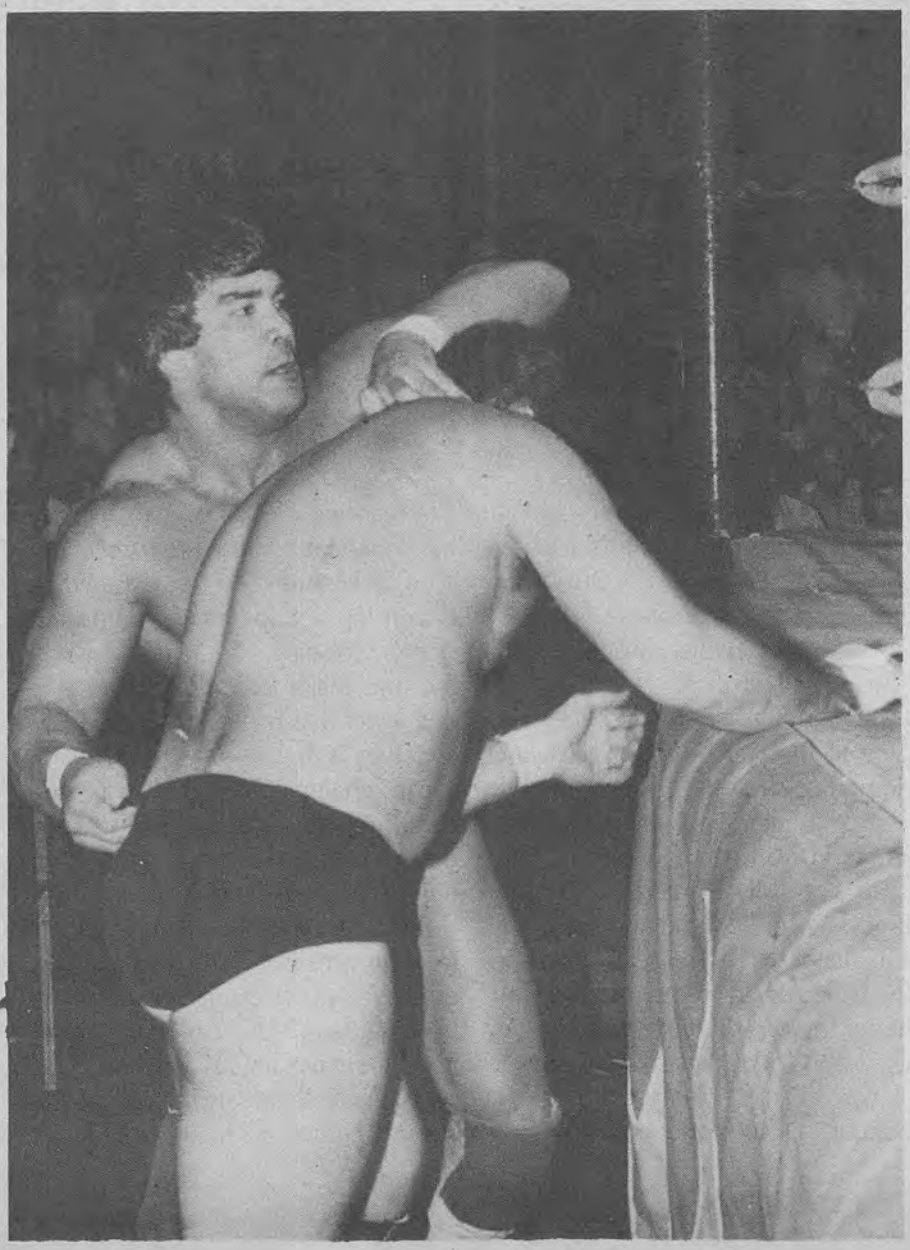
I AM NOT the first, and I won't be the last, to compare Dusty Rhodes to The Lone Ranger. Dusty doesn't wear a mask, but he does seem to show up just when he's needed.

"The Lone Ranger?" Dusty wondered. "I like that, J.B., I like that a whole lot. Dusty Rhodes ridin' down the plain on a white horse toward some damsel in distress with the wind blowin' in my face and the sun shaded by my 10-gallon white hat. But remember, The Lone Ranger's hat never fell off. Not even in a hurricane."

That's good to know, because Dusty is not chasing after any damsels, at least not right now. Dusty has just landed in the middle of the biggest twister Mid-Atlantic wrestling has ever seen. They're calling it a

Rick Steamboat grabs Tully Blanchard's hair and seeks the fans' approval before inflicting more punishment (above). Dusty Rhodes (top) has observed the Mid-Atlantic "superfeud" firsthand and plans to do something about it.

Steamboat, feeling the pain of Blanchard's headlock, grasps the ring apron (above). After getting the better of a ringside exchange, Steamboat lifts Blanchard back into the ring (below).

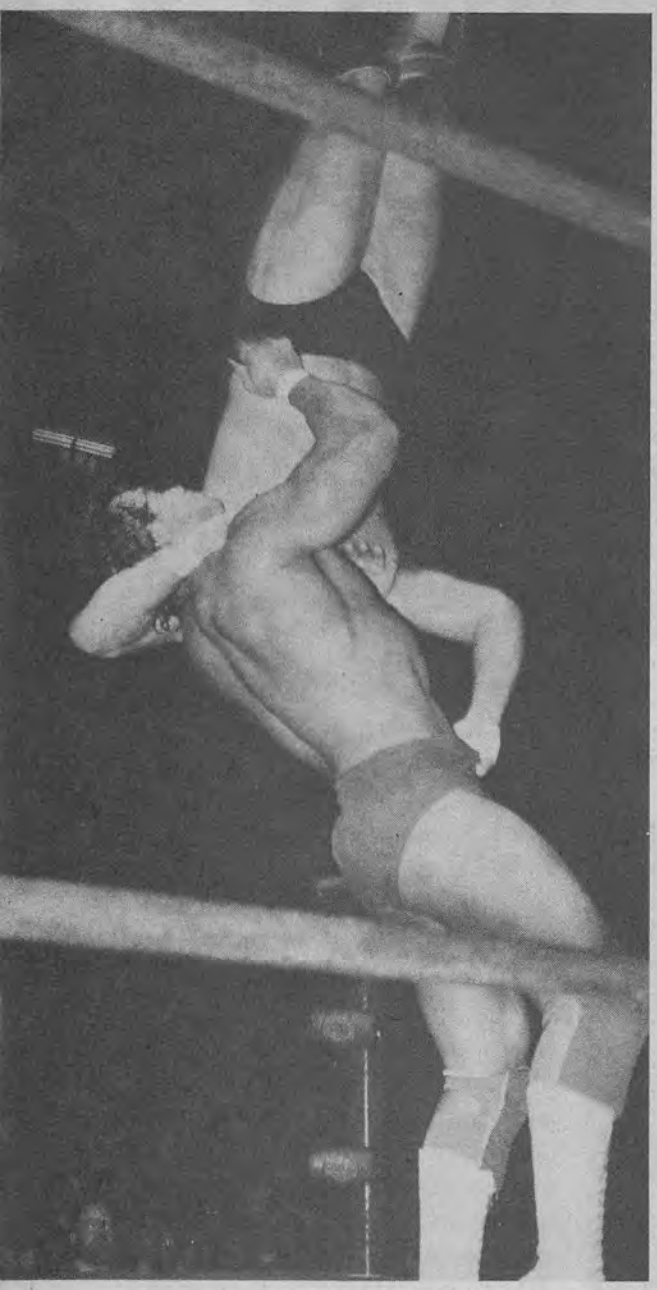


"superfeud," and the combatants include four of the biggest names in professional wrestling: NWA World champion Ric Flair, veteran Wahoo McDaniel, popular superstar Ricky Steamboat, and the much-less-than-popular "superbrat" of professional wrestling, Tully Blanchard.

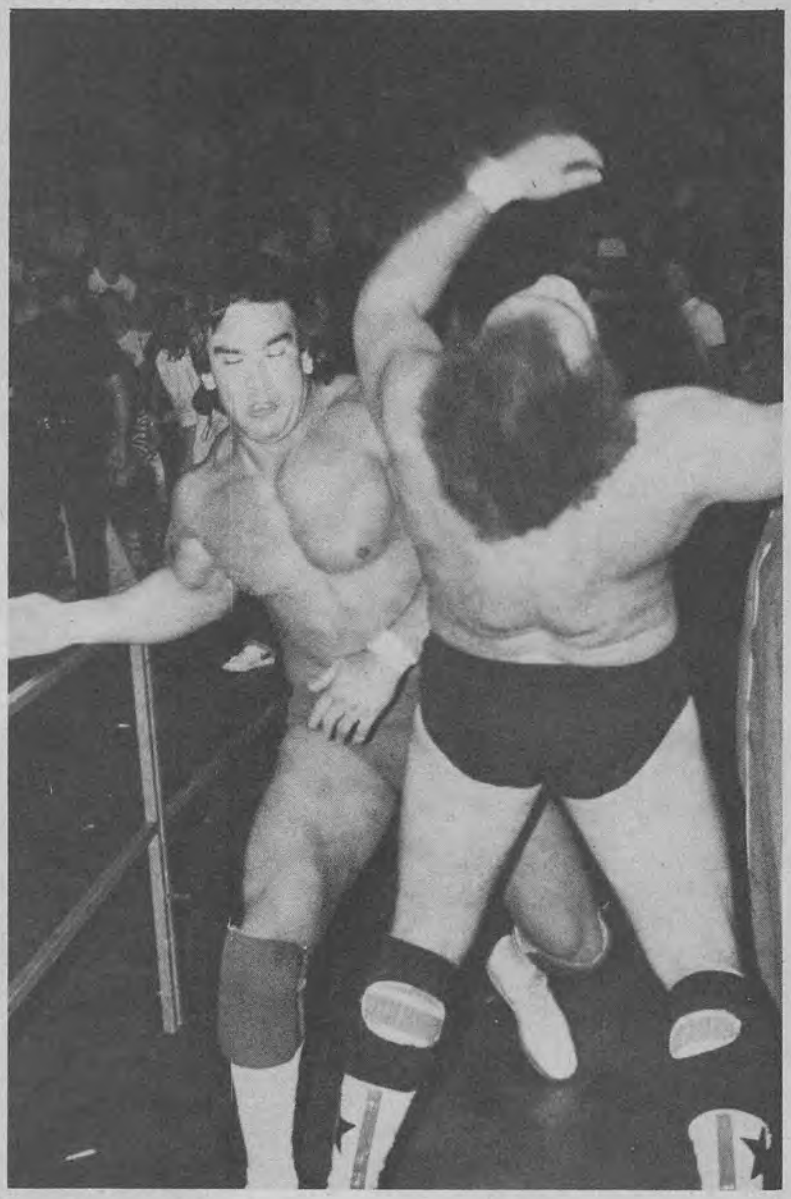
"The Dream is now gonna tell y'all what's goin' on," Rhodes said, "so bring your eyes real close to the page and read up, daddy. You cannot blame Wahoo McDaniel for what is goin' on here in the Mid-Atlantic area. It's a disease, a temporary disease that will eventually end, so what you have to do is kill what's perpetuating the illness, and that is Tully—*ptui*—I have to spit every time I say the name, Blanchard.

"I can't believe what has been goin' on here in the Mid-Atlantic area," Dusty said. "I saw my good friend the 'Boogie Woogie Man' down in Memphis, Tennessee, and he told me that I wouldn't believe what was goin' on with my man Wahoo. Now I can wrap my mind around almost anything; U.F.O. sightings, aliens, all *kinds* of strange phenomena, but I could not believe the words that were coming out of Jimmy Valiant's mouth.

"I said, 'Jimmy, man, you've been Boogie Woogieing so much that the left side of your brain is mixing into



Steamboat held the U.S. title until Blanchard's interference in Rick's match with Wahoo McDaniel forced the title to be held up. Steamboat suplexes Blanchard (left) and stuns him outside the ring (below).



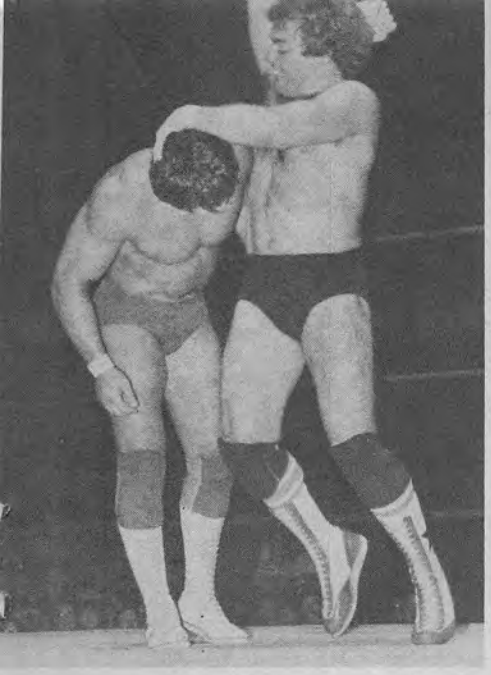
your right, and that ain't right.' But he said he was being straight with the Dream, so I just had to get over here to see what was goin' on. These pretty eyes o' mine don't lie, daddy. Wahoo has turned his back on everyone, including Flair, Steamboat, Mark Youngblood, Valiant—it's just unbelieveable. I got here and saw all kinds of things that just rubbed me the wrong way."

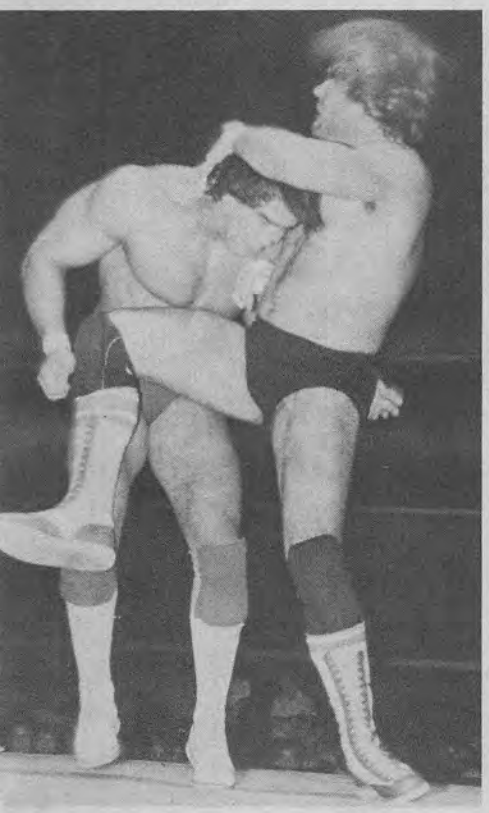
What Dusty saw was his longtime friend, Wahoo McDaniel, "wrestling on the dark side," he said. "Not as dark as Kevin Sullivan and his Temple of Gloom, but dark enough so that the Dream is wondering what could possibly happen next. If Wahoo McDaniel can turn his back on his friends, then Big Bird can crap all over Ernie and Bert's windshield, ya know what I'm sayin'?" Obviously, Dusty wasn't too pleased.

"Wahoo McDaniel was an idol," Dusty remembered. "He was an inspiration for all the li'l folk who came to the matches to watch good triumph over evil. Wahoo was a saint of a man. And now I find him gettin' in with an obnoxious little creep like Tully Blanchard, the only disgrace ever to graduate from my alma mater, West Texas State University. It brought a tear to my eye, and then a *thump, thump, thump,* to my heart, and it that hasn't stopped yet.

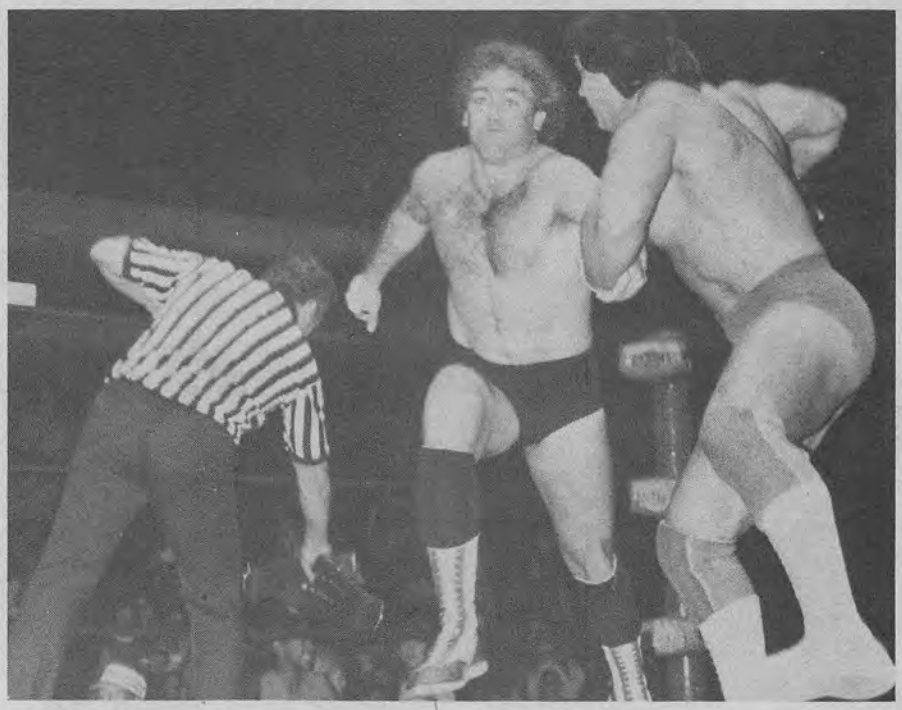
"You can't blame the man, though," Dusty continued. "Wahoo is a man with a heavy heart, J.B. He has looked back on his career and seen a lifetime of fine, upstanding citizenship in this world of professional wrestling. Yet, he's missing the one major accomplishment, the one jewel that makes a career shine, and that is the NWA World heavyweight championship. And now he's bitter, and he's taking his bitterness out of all of us who care about him."

Rhodes explained that Wahoo's teaming with Blanchard was just one of the ways McDaniel was venting his bitterness. "Don't be congratulating the Dream for his brilliance," he said, "because this was not my discovery. I came in in the middle of





Blanchard nails Steamboat with an elbowsmash (top left). Blanchard stretches his foot underneath the ropes, and the referee orders Steamboat to get up (above). Tully connects with a kneelift to Steamboat's abdominal region (left). After the match, the referee reaches for Blanchard's NWA TV title, but the wrestlers don't want to stop (below).



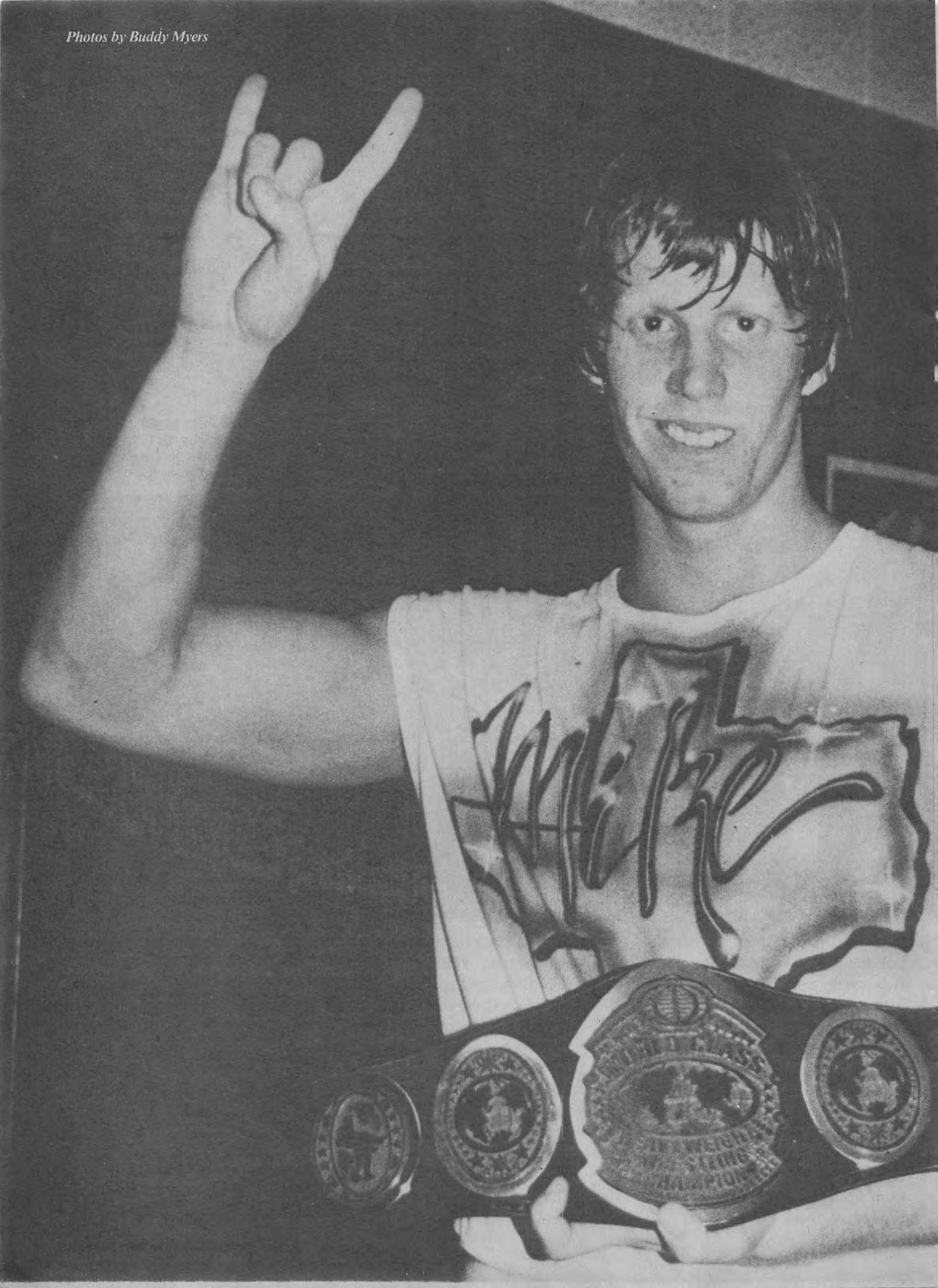
this. The man responsible for this brilliant idea is Ricky Steamboat. He's goin' after Blanchard already. And now with 'Stardust' in on the action, there's no way that little brat is gonna survive. We're gonna pound him into the mat like a nail into plywood."

But will Rhodes' involvement put an end to the Blanchard-Wahoo tandem, or will it trigger a stronger bond between them? Will the two team up against Rhodes and Steamboat? "Let them try," Rhodes said. "Maybe when Wahoo sees up close and personal what kind of a little scum Tully Blanchard is, he'll come back to his senses. Maybe Wahoo is so blinded by his frustration that he can't see. Either way, daddy, I gotta try. You know that I have never been one to stand on the sidelines. I'm gonna be in there pitchin' away, givin' it my best shot. I owe that to Wahoo. I know that some people might think I'm crazy for wanting to do anything for the man after the things he's said about me, but that's the way I am. I'm a forgivin' so and so, J.B.

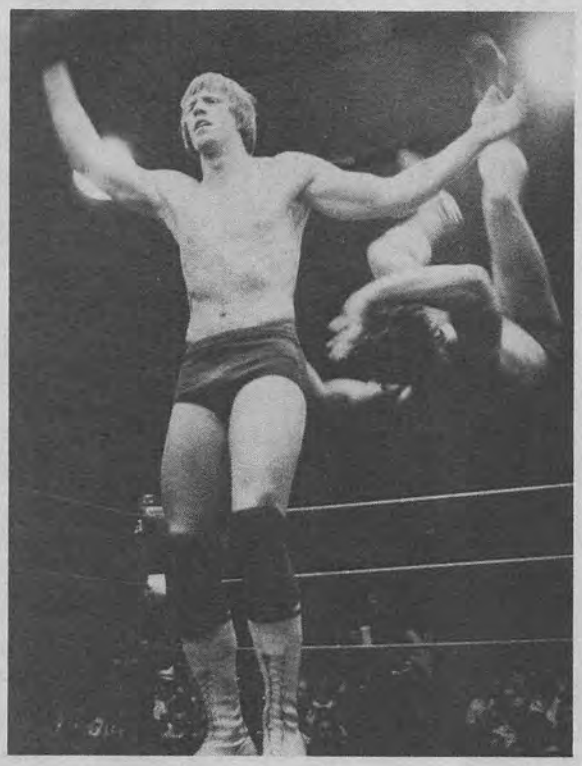
"So I'm givin' Ricky my support. Tully Blanchard is like an incubator for Wahoo McDaniel. He's making the germs of hatred grow. Well, I'm gonna pour a bucket of ice on Tully Blanchard's fire. The man is a disgrace, daddy. A damned disgrace. But don't worry, 'cause the Dream is comin' to the rescue. Hi-Yo Silver, Away."

I could just hear the "William Tell Overture" in the air. □

Photos by Buddy Myers



Mike Von Erich Wins The World Class American Title:



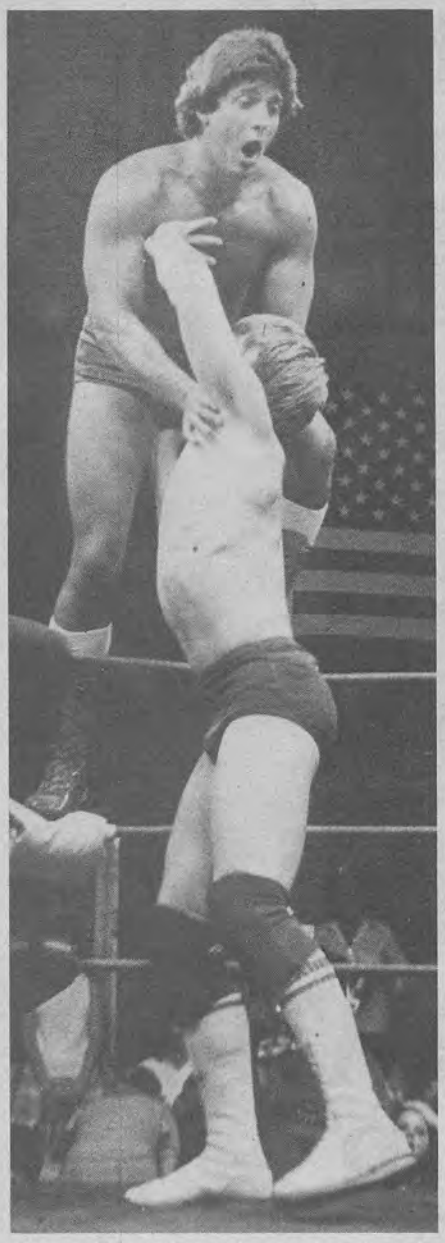
AND HIS FATHER FEARS FOR HIS SAFETY!

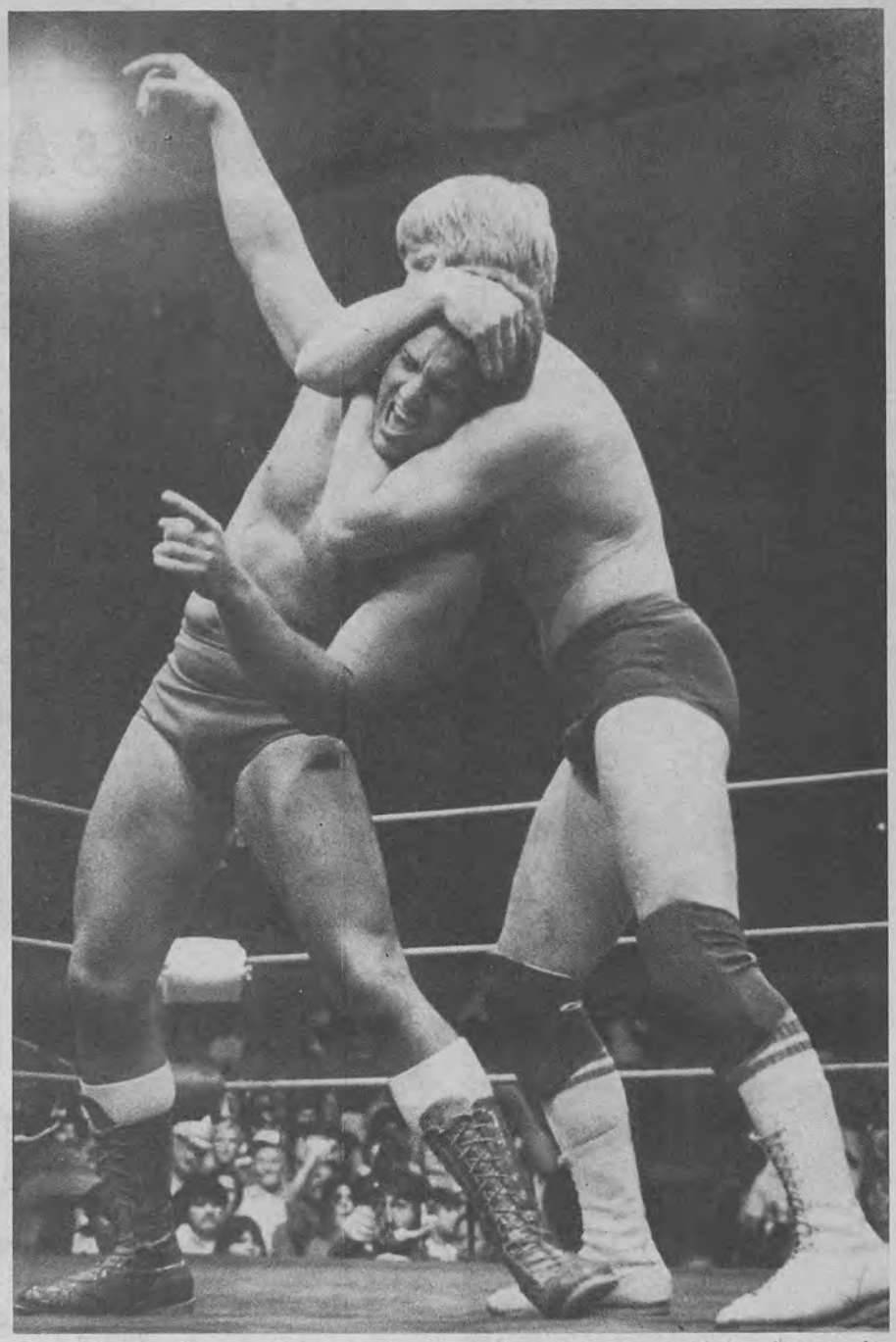
It's been a big year for Mike Von Erich. The World Class rookie sensation has risen to the top of the wrestling world, following admirably in the grand tradition of Von Erich excellence. Fritz Von Erich is proud of his son's achievements. But Mike's latest success—defeating Gino Hernandez for the American title—also has his father very worried

MIKE VON ERICH'S face wears two distinct expressions these days as he enters the ring.

Climbing through the ring ropes with the World Class American heavyweight belt strapped around his waist, Mike often bears a wide smile on his face. He is happy to have captured the American title from Gino Hernandez, and he is happy to be receiving the cheers of the World Class wrestling fans.

But one has got to question whether he is truly happy holding that Ameri-





Above: Before Hernandez can leap from the turnbuckles, Von Erich grabs him and throws him to the mat. Right: Young Mike grabs Gorgeous Gino in a sleeperhold.

can title.

A close look at Mike's face reveals that there is a large element of worry behind that smile. You don't have to go far to discern the reasons for that worry—Mike Von Erich is a rookie wrestler faced with the greatest challenge of his life: defending his first major title.

"It kind of scares me sometimes," Mike told *The Wrestler* in a recent interview. "A lot of success has come to me in a relatively short period of time. I'm really trying hard to keep a cool head and a proper perspective on the whole thing.

"It's also strange to be in the position of defending a title instead of challenging for one," Mike continued. "I've been in that position before, but it had to do with the World Class six-man tag team title. In that case, I had my brothers along with me—we all kind of relied on each other. But now it's just me alone, and that's a very different situation."

When speaking with Mike, one doesn't get the impression that he's actually afraid. It's more of an impression that he's struggling to become accustomed to a new sensation.

But when speaking with Mike's father, Fritz Von Erich, one gets the impression that he is truly fearful for his son's safety. It could be due to the natural protective instincts of a father for his son . . . or it could be due to the wisdom that comes with decades of experience in the wrestling ring.

"I've been keeping a close eye on Mike," Fritz said, "and I've got to say that I'm so proud of him, it's almost unbelievable. My boy has come along so far in the past year, he's been so successful so quickly."

We asked Fritz if he too has noticed the double-edged emotion in Mike's face these days.

"Yes, I have, and I hesitate to say it's because he's not happy. I think

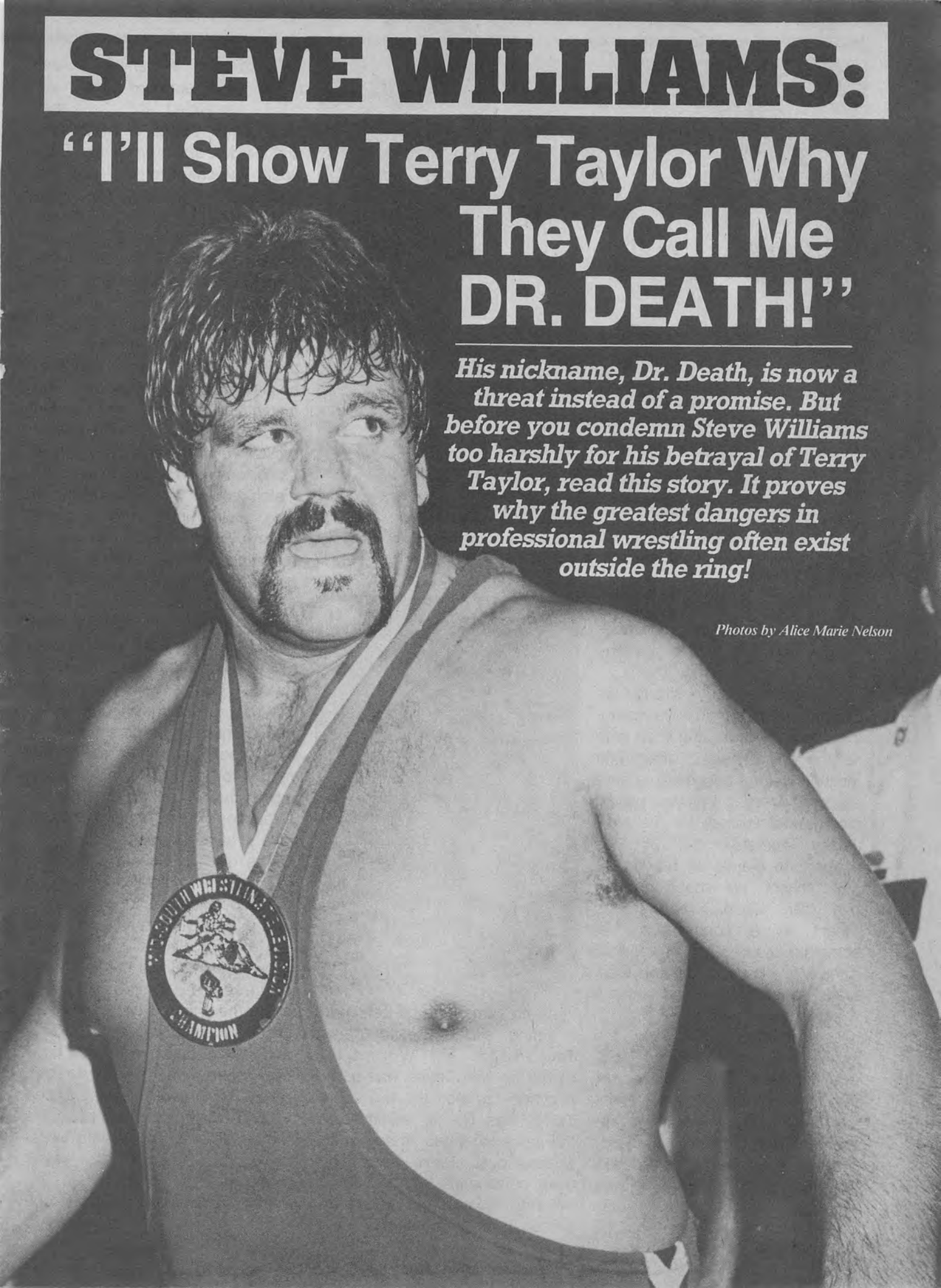
(Continued on page 62)

STEVE WILLIAMS:

"I'll Show Terry Taylor Why They Call Me DR. DEATH!"

His nickname, Dr. Death, is now a threat instead of a promise. But before you condemn Steve Williams too harshly for his betrayal of Terry Taylor, read this story. It proves why the greatest dangers in professional wrestling often exist outside the ring!

Photos by Alice Marie Nelson



Holding Taylor in a headlock, Williams sinks to the mat, painfully bending his opponent's back as he drops (above). Dr. Death, showing no mercy, kicks his helpless foe repeatedly in the back (below).

AFTER IT HAPPENED, everyone said it was inevitable. People still can't understand why no one saw it coming.

To comprehend this strange series of events, we must first examine Steve Williams, the man who set the violent state of affairs into motion. Before becoming a professional wrestler, Williams played professional football for the New Jersey Generals of the USFL. It's a sport he played all his life. In high school, his coach dubbed him "Dr. Death," which was meant as a compliment. Yet something soured him on football. After a few games with the Generals, he left football and became a professional wrestler.

Looking back on it now, the switch was profound for the 295-pounder from Tulsa, Oklahoma. For the first time in his life, he wasn't part of a team. It was every man for himself. No longer dependent on teammates to win, Williams flourished. The solitude of a professional wrestler appealed to him.

At the same time he befriended a young, skilled wrestler named Terry Taylor. For Williams, his friendship with Taylor was sort of a bridge between the two sports; Taylor was like a teammate as the pair exchanged strategies and observations. Steve and Terry were considered to have among the strongest professional and personal ties in wrestling.

As so often happens in professional sport, ambition slowly but surely unraveled the ties that bind. What would tear Williams and Taylor apart were the Mid-South TV championship and the gold medal that goes along with that honor. The champion at the time the trouble began was the despised Krusher Khrushchev, a man who proudly proclaims to be a traitor to his country's ideals.

When Taylor got a shot at the title, Williams appeared to be happy for his friend, and at the time he probably thought he was. The match, as are so many when Khrushchev is one of the participants, was an especially brutal exhibition of wrestling fury. The match ended on an inconclusive note, neither man able to claim victory. Williams, later claiming to be protecting his friend's rights, grabbed the gold medal and refused to turn it over to officials.

"When Terry and Krusher next meet," he promised one official, "I'll give the medal to the winner, even if it means handing it over to that rat Khrushchev. Right now, nobody has earned the medal. I'll keep it safe and then give it to the man who deserves it." Then turning to the official, he threatened, "You don't have enough men to take it away from me."

The officials, after a short conference that established nobody wanted to be responsible for a riot, decided to let Williams keep the medal. After all, he was an honorable man and surely intended to keep his promise.

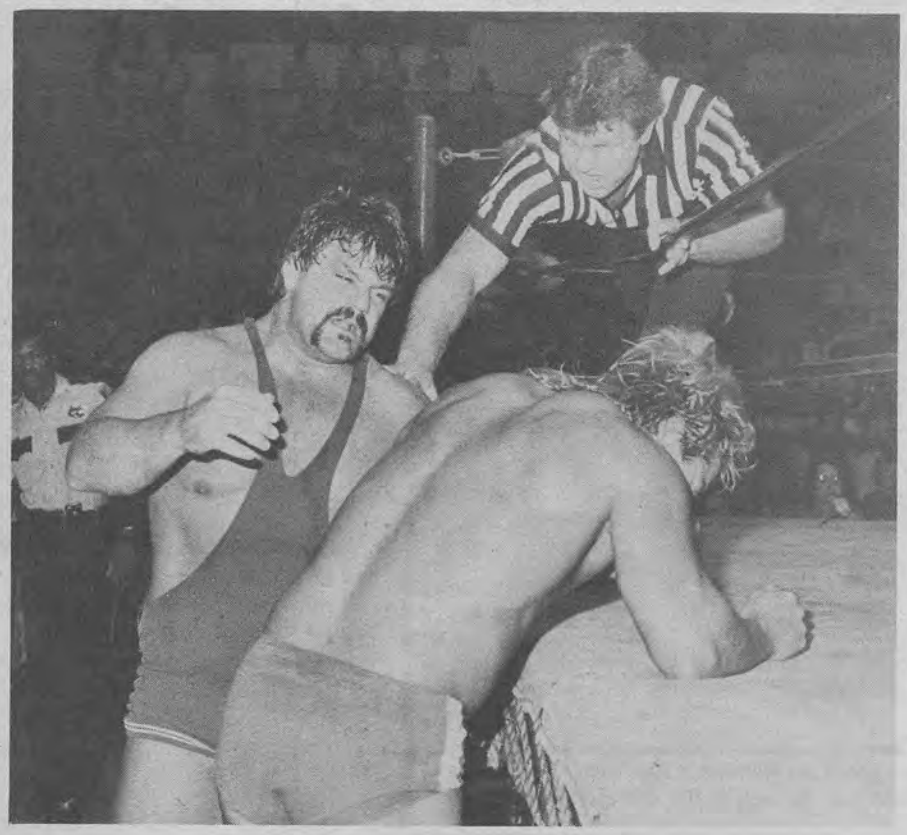
The next time Taylor and Khrushchev met, it was another ugly and savage battle. This time, however, there was a definite outcome. Taylor won the title. Elated with his victory, he turned to his friend Williams and waited to receive his medal. It wasn't forthcoming.

Williams claimed to have forgotten the medal but promised to

give it to his friend as soon as possible. Not expecting any betrayal, Taylor accepted this explanation. Few guessed at the time that Williams was anything less than elated with his friend's success.

Weeks passed. Williams never gave the medal to Taylor, it's rightful owner. Taylor could no longer dismiss the situation as an oversight. He demanded the medal. Mid-South officials demanded Williams hand over the medal. That's when what everyone suspected became fact.

Williams throws the fatigued Taylor across the ring and through the ropes (above). Dr. Death follows Terry outside the ring where he resumes his brutal onslaught (below). Williams vows to end his former best friend's career.



"I'm not giving up the medal," Williams announced. "If Taylor wants it, he'll have to defeat me for it."

And so, a great friendship was destroyed by one man's success and another's professional jealousy. Even wrestling veterans were shocked by the depth of Williams' rage. As they thought about it, though, it became all too understandable.

Williams, a team player all his life, suddenly discovered only one man can be the success in wrestling. Steve saw that he'd share none of Taylor's prize. When he had advised Taylor about Khrushchev, Williams never fully appreciated that a Taylor victory would do nothing for him. He felt betrayed to the depths of his soul. It went against everything he'd known throughout his entire sport's life.

The shock not only turned Williams against Taylor but against the fans. Suddenly, the nickname Dr. Death didn't mean rulebreakers were in trouble. Instead, scientific wrestlers would feel the wrath of this viciously powerful athlete. Williams named Taylor as his number one target.

"I'll show Terry Taylor why they call me Dr. Death," Williams vowed. "Before I'm finished, Taylor will be begging me to keep the medal. I'm the real champion. He's just the louse who took my shot at the title.

"This is a whole new era in wrestling," Williams concluded. "We now begin Dr. Death's reign of terror. And we mark the beginning of the end of Terry Taylor's career." □

Beyond the Squared Circle

Sir Oliver Humperdink puts himself into a trance before appearing with his charge Superstar Graham.

Verne Gagne, representing the AWA, speaks with NWA President Bob Geigel at the NWA convention about a possible world title unification match.

Rick Rude listens to a little Twisted Sister in the dressing room to relax before a match in Memphis.

Associate Editor Craig Peters poses The Road Warriors in New York City's Central Park. The resulting color photograph can be seen in the Winter 1984 edition of *Wrestling 84,* now on sale.

Bruiser Brody tries to strike up a conversation with a St. Louis cop. He was not very successful.

Barry Windham poses with his younger brother Kendall, who is considering becoming a pro wrestler.

Next to his father, Rocky Johnson, Duane Johnson's number-one man is NWA World champ Ric Flair.

Rick Steamboat provides a negative thrust as one of the members of his North Carolina gym does curls.

Scott "Hog" Erwin looks for a quick getaway on his Harley Davidson after a match in Fort Worth, Texas. Erwin said he didn't even work up a sweat in his match, so there was no need to shower.

Fabulous Moolah, World champion for 27 years, with Kerry Von Erich, World champion for three weeks.

Former NWA World champion Dory Funk Jr. is a happy man as he gets double-teamed by the two main women in his life: his wife, Marti (left), and his daughter, Penny.

OFFI
WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.

Rick Martel

Barry Windham

Magnum T.A.

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

4—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

5—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

6—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

7—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

8—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

9—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX

10—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—IVAN KOLOFF & DON KERNODLE
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 485 pounds

3—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
No. 1 contenders for AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 479 pounds

4—DICK MURDOCH & ADRIAN ADONIS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 521 pounds

5—CHAVO & HECTOR GUERRERO
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 472 pounds

6—ICEMAN PARSONS & BUCK ZUMHOFE
World Class American tag team champions
Combined weight: 464 pounds

7—DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 483 pounds

8—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds

9—RONNIE GARVIN & JERRY OATES
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 478 pounds

10—DUSTY RHODES & BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
No. 1 contenders for NWA World tag team title
Combined weight: 612 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

MOST POPULAR

1—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

3—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY

4—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

5—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

6—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

7—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR

8—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX

9—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

10—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

MOST HATED

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

2—BRUISER BRODY
311, Albuquerque, NM

3—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA

4—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

5—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan

6—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

7—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

8—DORY FUNK JR.
244, Amarillo, TX

9—KING KONG BUNDY
420, Atlantic City, NJ

10—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

2—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE

3—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

4—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

5—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

6—PISTOL PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX

7—SCOTT McGHEE
220, Shipley, England

8—MIKE VON ERICH
220, Denton, TX

9—COWBOY RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX

10—CARLOS COLON
238, Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan

2—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

3—TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA

4—JUMBO TSURUTA
240, Tokyo, Japan

5—BILLY ROBINSON
246, Manchester, England

6—BRUISER BRODY
311, Albuquerque, NM

7—JIM BRUNZELL
225, Minneapolis, MN

8—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN

9—GREG GAGNE
220, Robinsdale, MN

10—CURT HENNIG
235, Robinsdale, MN

For period ended August 30, 1984

CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

1—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
2—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
3—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Los Angeles, CA
4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
5—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
6—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN
7—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
8—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
9—**THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
10—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

GEORGIA

1—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
2—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
3—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
223, Marietta, GA
4—**BOB ARMSTRONG**
242, Marietta, GA
5—**TIM HORNER**
235, Morristown, TN
6—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
7—**JERRY OATES**
247, Columbus, GA
8—**JIMMY VALIANT**
252, New York, NY
9—**STEVE TRAVIS**
247, Charlottesville, VA
10—**OLE ANDERSON**
256, Minneapolis, MN

FLORIDA

1—**PEZ WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
2—**SCOTT McGHEE**
220, Shipley, England
3—**BILLY JACK**
245, Portland, OR
4—**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
5—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
6—**DORY FUNK JR.**
244, Amarillo, TX
7—**BUGSY McGRAW**
245, New York, NY
8—**MIKE DAVIS**
232, Atlanta, GA
9—**JIM NEIDHARDT**
248, Calgary, Alberta
10—**THE SAINT**
242, Caracas, Venezuela

MID-ATLANTIC

1—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
2—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
5—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
6—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
7—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
8—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
9—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
10—**ANGELO MOSCA JR.**
234, Caledou, Ontario

WORLD CLASS

1—**MIKE VON ERICH**
220, Denton, TX
2—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
4—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
254, Denton, TX
5—**KILLER KHAN**
312, Mongolia
6—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford on Avon, England
7—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
8—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
9—**BUTCH REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
10—**KELLY KINISKI**
242, Vancouver, BC

MID-SOUTH

1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
2—**BUTCH REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
3—**TERRY TAYLOR**
219, Vero Beach, FL
4—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
234, Tulsa, OK
5—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
275, Tampa, FL
6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
8—**ERNIE LADD**
354, Houston, TX
9—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL
10—**SONNY KING**
256, Detroit, MI

MID-SOUTHERN

1—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
2—**KING KONG BUNDY**
420, Atlantic City, NJ
3—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
4—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
5—**RICK RUDE**
233, Robinsdale, MN
6—**RANDY SAVAGE**
235, Sarasota, FL
7—**LANNY POFFO**
228, Sarasota, FL
8—**MASAO ITO**
247, Osaka, Japan
9—**MID-SOUTHERN SPOILER**
240, parts unknown
10—**PHIL HICKERSON**
230, Jackson, TN

NORTHWEST

1—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
2—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
245, Minneapolis, MN
3—**BRETT SAWYER**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
4—**MATT BORNE**
240, Milwaukie, OR
5—**KEVIN KELLY**
265, Hollywood, CA
6—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
7—**MR. EBONY**
240, parts unknown
8—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
9—**RON POPE**
265, Africa
10—**DOUG SOMERS**
244, Minneapolis, MN

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Closeup on the Southeast: This installment of "Ratings Analysis" takes a close up look at the Southeast area of the country, which promotes matches in Florida and Alabama.

It might come as a surprise to some of you to learn that the Southeast area, a relatively small promotion, has some of the top names in wrestling right now, including the Armstrong family, Austin Idol, Mr. Wrestling II, Johnny Rich, and Ron Fuller.

"Bullet" Bob Armstrong currently holds the Southeastern Continental heavyweight championship. Austin Idol, "The Universal Heartthrob," holds the Southeast heavyweight title, and the R.A.T. Patrol, consisting of Johnny Rich, Scott Armstrong, and The Tonga Kid, have the Southeast tag team title. Although there are three members of the R.A.T. Patrol, any two members of that squad are allowed to defend the tag team belts at any given time. Scott Armstrong, by the way, is the current holder of the U.S. junior heavyweight championship.

Bob Armstrong

SOUTHEAST

1—BOB ARMSTRONG
237, Pensacola, FL

2—AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV

3—RON FULLER
235, Birmingham, AL

4—SCOTT ARMSTRONG
215, Pensacola, FL

5—JOHNNY RICH
227, Hendersonville, TN

6—THE TONGA KID
226, Samoa

7—PORKCHOP CASH
233, Washington, DC

8—BRAD ARMSTRONG
231, Pensacola, FL

9—MR. WRESTLING II
241, Atlanta, GA

10—ARN ANDERSON
241, Minneapolis, MN

Changes: Don't blink your eyes these days, or you might miss not one, but two or three title changes. Of course, these title changes have a tremendous effect on our ratings, and our ratings committee has been constantly adjusting and readjusting the ratings to keep up with the rush of activity.

Since August 1, the cut-off point of our last ratings period, five major titles have changed hands (one of them twice). In the next few paragraphs, we'll examine the changes and how they have affected the ratings.

The Road Warriors won the AWA World tag team titles. Animal and Hawk, managed by Precious Paul Ellering, dominated the action from the opening bell in defeating Crusher and Baron Von Raschke on August 25 at the Showboat Sports Pavillion in Las Vegas. In the opinion of our editorial staff, this victory, in combination with the string of wins that led them to the title encounter, qualifies the Warriors for the top spot in our tag team ratings. Former champs Von Raschke and Crusher fall completely out of the ratings, and Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle, the NWA World tag champs, drop to the number two spot.

Pez Whatley

Pistol Pez Whatley, after only 10 days of competition in the state of Florida, defeated Jim Neidhardt for the Southern heavyweight title in Sarasota on August 25. (Neidhardt had beaten Angelo Mosca for the belt only two weeks earlier.) Whatley moves into the top spot in the Florida ratings. Florida champion Scott McGhee remains number two, and former Southern champ Neidhardt drops to number nine. Mosca has left the area and is not currently rated in any of our regional ratings.

Mike Von Erich is the new World Class American champion. The youngest of the wrestling Von Erich brothers filled in for brother Kevin, who had missed an airline connection, and defeated Gino Hernandez on August 4 in Dallas for the belt. Hernandez also holds the Texas title, which was not on the line in this match. Von Erich rises to the number one spot from seventh place, directly above Hernandez.

Eddie Gilbert defeated Tommy Rich in Memphis on August 27 to win the Mid-Southern International title. The feud between these former championship tag team partners intensifies daily. Rich drops to number four behind Gilbert, Mid-Southern heavyweight champ King Kong Bundy, and top contender Jerry Lawler.

Cowboy Ron Bass defeated Angelo Mosca Jr. for the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title August 29 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Bass has just arrived in the Mid-Atlantic region from Florida and has quickly proved himself a dominant force in the area, holding the Mid-Atlantic tag title with Black Bart as well as the Mid-Atlantic singles belt.

The address for mail: We invite your questions, comments, or complaints. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville, Centre, NY 11571. □

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

Barry Windham, executing a flying bodypress against Black Bart, has improved dramatically, notes Vicki Harden.

changed hands from Rick Steamboat to Wahoo McDaniel, the NWA, for the first time, has held up this major title. As of now, there is no U.S. champion.

Well, Barry Windham will do his best to change that. Having followed Barry during his recent years in Florida, I'm certain that his fans here in the Mid-Atlantic area will see a definite change in this young man. He is more experienced, more determined, and more confident in himself than he has ever been before. I'm looking forward to seeing him in person, and I hope you'll give him the coverage he deserves while he's here.

We have some of the best competitors in the NWA here in the Mid-Atlantic area, and all eyes are on that U.S. belt. It won't be the first time that Barry Windham has had his work cut out for him. But, in case he's reading this, I'd like him to know

(Continued on page 50)

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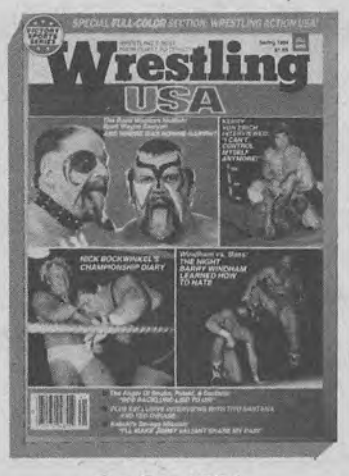

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)

that I'm behind him all the way. I have no doubt that he is capable of winning the U.S. title. I think he deserves it, and I'm sure he'll work hard to get it.

We will soon have a new U.S. champion: Barry Windham. Next stop: the NWA World heavyweight title!

VICKI HARDEN
Ahoskie, NC

Roddy Piper should be commended for the patience he shows his ill-mannered guests, writes Kevin Currier.

THUMBS UP TO PIPER

While I am generally in agreement with the views expressed in "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down," I must object strongly to your thumbs down to Roddy Piper in the October issue of *The Wrestler.*

Admittedly, the "Piper's Pit" segment usually goes rapidly out of control, but Piper is not directly responsi-

(Continued on page 52)

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FALL/84

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 50)

Road Warrior Hawk is in full control against Baron Von Raschke. Reader Grace Yolan was at the Showboat Sports Pavilion when The Road Warriors won the AWA tag team title from Von Raschke and Crusher and was amazed at their brutality.

ble for this. The unfortunate Piper has been victimized by the arrogance, insolence, and ill-manneredness of the likes of Rocky Johnson, Frankie Williams, and most recently, Jimmy Snuka.

During the Snuka interview, Piper tried repeatedly to converse intelligently with Snuka, but Snuka found that tearing down the "Piper's Pit" set and chasing Piper out of the studio was preferable to intelligent conversation.

Thumbs up to Roddy Piper. He is to be commended for his patience and tolerance of many of his simple-minded guests.

KEVIN CURRIER
Stillwater, OK

HAIL THE WARRIORS

I am delirious about The Road Warriors winning the AWA World tag team championship from Crusher and Baron Von Raschke. Animal and Hawk are the biggest, meanest, strongest, most powerful men in professional wrestling, and Paul Ellering is the most cunning, brilliant manager in the sport. It is a credit to their combined talents that they were able to overcome the vast experience of Crusher and Von Raschke.

I was at the Showboat Sports Pavilion for the title match, and it amazed me just how powerful these men are. I had seen them on TV, but you really can't imagine how ferocious they are until you see them in an arena. Before you knew it, they had the champs at a serious disadvantage. Ellering barked instructions to his men, and the Warriors carried out his orders to perfection.

Crusher and Von Raschke are screaming about how the Warriors won illegally, but I think they're just jealous. There were no foreign objects used and there was no interference by Ellering. Crusher was actually the man at fault. He was the man who distracted the referee's attention. It didn't matter, though, because the Warriors' pinning combination was perfectly legal. Any double-teaming occured within the referee's five-count.

So, don't believe anyone who tells you that the Warriors don't deserve those belts. In my opinion, they deserve the titles more than any team around. They're the best.

GRACE YOLAN
Las Vegas ☐

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June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Blassie, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel.

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December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Reed, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

March 1983/COLOR POSTER: Andre The Giant. Cover photo: Bob Backlund. SPECIAL YEAR-END ISSUE! 1982—The Year In Review! PLUS: Results of the 1982 *PWI* Fan Poll!

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Hansen, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Brisco, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

JANUARY 1983

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

OCTOBER 1983

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

March 1984/SPECIAL FOUR-PAGE COLOR SECTION featuring Jimmy Snuka & Hulk Hogan, Brett Sawyer, Ric Flair vs. Harley Race. Cover photo: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL YEAR-END ISSUE—1983 In Review! Plus 1983 *PWI* Fan Poll results!

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

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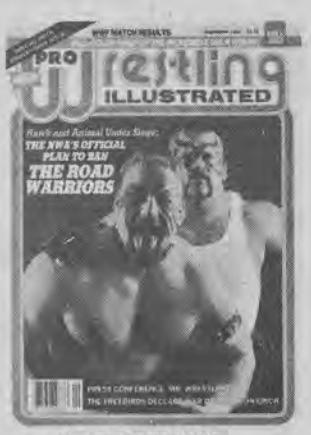
October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.



SEPTEMBER 1984

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

With the official semiconscious on the mat, Piper caught Snuka in the sleeperhold. The referee rose to find Snuka weakened and called for the bell. The crowd expected the ref to award the match to Piper, but instead disqualified Piper and awarded the match to the Superfly.

In other bouts, Dick Murdoch and Adrian Adonis defeated The Samoans . . . Tito Santana drew with Greg Valentine . . . Andre the Giant defeated The Iron Sheik . . . Cowboy Bob Orton beat S.D. Jones . . . Tiger Chung Lee defeated Salvatore Bellomo . . . Rene Goulet beat Terry Daniels.

New Orleans, LA *(Correspondent—* **Shawn Hodges):** North American champion Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen defeated Ernie "Big Cat" Ladd in a no-disqualification, one-hour time limit challenge match. T.A. was faced with battling Ladd's advantages in height, weight, and experience—and the Cat's penchant for using illegal tactics. Allen, however, managed to take advantage of the one mistake Ladd made during their match to hold on to his belt.

Ladd quickly established the atmosphere for this title bout as he applied a chokehold on the champion as the

Clutching Jimmy Snuka's legs, Roddy Piper drops to the mat, lifting "The Superfly's" throat into the bottom rope. Snuka would later win by disqualification.

opening bell rang. Angered, T.A. battled back and sent Ladd out of the ring with a series of forearm smashes.

Allen followed his opponent outside the ring where they continued to exchange blows. Ladd tried to slam Magnum into the ringpost, but the champion reversed the attempt, sending the challenger into the post instead.

Ernie Ladd takes advantage of the no-disqualification stipulation in his match with Magnum T.A. Magnum later took a sudden victory when he rolled out of Ladd's path as "The Cat" sprung from the ropes.

Ladd returned to the ring with a foreign object wrapped in a bandage. The object found its mark, T.A.'s throat. The champ squirmed on the mat in pain as Ladd climbed to the top turnbuckle. As he came down, however, Magnum rolled out of the way and went on to claim the victory.

In other bouts, The Midnight Express defeated Kerry Von Erich and Hacksaw Jim Duggan by disqualification . . . Terry Taylor defeated Steve Williams . . . The PYT Express beat Hercules Hernandez and Buddy Landell . . . Krusher Khrushchev beat Tony Torres. □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

Manager Jim Cornette (kneeling) claims all the credit for the success of Dennis Condrey (left) and Bobby Eaton.

don't understand why you don't get rid of that idiot Jim Cornette? He's a wimp! He doesn't help at all. All he does is get you two in trouble. Think about getting rid of Cornette."—Todd Wilson, Oklahoma City

A: "Fortunately, it is part of my agreement with the Express that I screen all their mail and act as their spokesperson at all times," manager Cornette said. "Wimp? I don't see Todd Wilson managing anyone. This is one of the toughest, most dangerous businesses there is. And if you don't think that I perform a service for the Express, just look at their records since I began managing them. Hey, without me they wouldn't even be a team. I am the guiding force behind the Midnight Express. I am the reason they are the Mid-South tag team champions. And if you have any complaints, you can just deposit them in the circular file."

Q: "My question is for Chris Adams: Are you glad that your involvement with Sunshine, Precious, and Jim Garvin is over? Also, what are your goals now that Garvin has left Texas?"—Gina McGee, Ardmore, OK

A: "One thing I have to say about the whole feud with Garvin and Precious is that because of it, a whole lot of people found out who I was," Adams said. "Before I hooked up with Sunshine, I was known, but I wasn't the celebrity that I am now. There's a lot to be said for celebrity status, but there's also a lot of problems connected to it. It was a whole lot easier to just live my life as a normal person. I don't

Chris Adams' involvement with Sunshine and his feud with Jim Garvin and Precious added significantly to his celebrity status.

want to sound as if I don't appreciate how the fans feel about me, because their support means so much. It's just an additional task. I guess when you're a professional athlete, you have a

responsibility to the public. They are the people who pay your salary. My goals are the same as they were when Garvin was here, to be the best wrestler I can be. I hope that in 20 years I'm still learning more."

Wahoo McDaniel, whose popularity decreases daily, says he would welcome a match with Dusty Rhodes.

Q: "My question is for Wahoo McDaniel: What's happened to you? A wrestling fan used to be able to trust you to uphold the tenets of justice and fair play. Now no one can trust you. I just hope that someone gets a piece of your hide, and I hope that someone is Dusty Rhodes."—Steve November, Mt. Vernon, NY

A: "What did justice and fair play ever do for me," McDaniel replied. "Nothing! And I'll tell you what. Let Dusty Rhodes come after me. I'll show all of you that your American Dream is just a fat old nightmare. Come on, Dusty. Throw that 302 pounds into the ring after me, if you can get up to the ring apron." □

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MARTEL-ATLAS

(Continued from page 30)

Martel has been receiving some criticism for giving Bockwinkel so many title shots. Rick explains that it is the promoters who tell him whom to wrestle, and that he would welcome the challenge of Tony Atlas.

him defend the title against the best wrestlers around. That's what makes a title reign special."

Along with Saito, Brad Rheingans, and Billy Robinson, Atlas is one of the best in the AWA. The AWA Championship Committee, however, has seen fit to grant most of the recent title shots to Bockwinkel.

"I know that Bockwinkel has held the title, and he's still rated number one," Martel said, "but there are other deserving wrestlers, and Atlas is definitely one of them. I want to wrestle them all, including Robinson, Rheingans, Saito, Curt Hennig . . . but I'm not the matchmaker. I wrestle who they tell me to."

He looks forward to testing his skills against the former Mr. U.S.A. "Beating Atlas will be tough, because he is so strong, and quick, and smart. Every basic hold he applies is all the more weakening because he's so strong. He can practically beat you with headlocks. Sure, it'll be tough, but not impossible. I plan to be champion for a long time, even if I have to wrestle Tony as many times as I've wrestled Bockwinkel."

Atlas, who learned the frustration of being denied a deserved title shot while he was in the WWF, is hopeful that this match will take place. The AWA has a history of matching scientific wrestlers in title matches. "I believe that Rick really does wanna wrestle me," Atlas said. "And he has to know that I would like nothin' better than to take that title away from him. Personally, I think he must be getting tired of wrestling Bockwinkel. Rick keeps beating him, though, and after all these matches I think the AWA will finally drop Nick in the ratings, and that will leave Saito and me.

"I've beaten Saito," Atlas continued, "but not decisively. Once I do I'll get my chance at the title, and I'm not gonna let it pass without the biggest effort of my career. I'm gonna be ready. Rick Martel is in for the toughest match of his career." □

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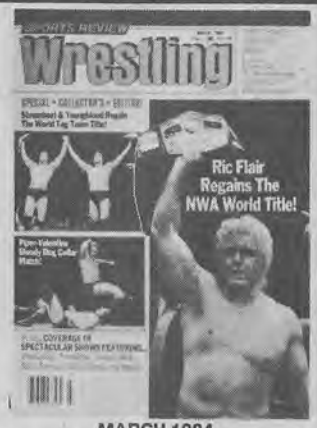

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MIKE VON ERICH

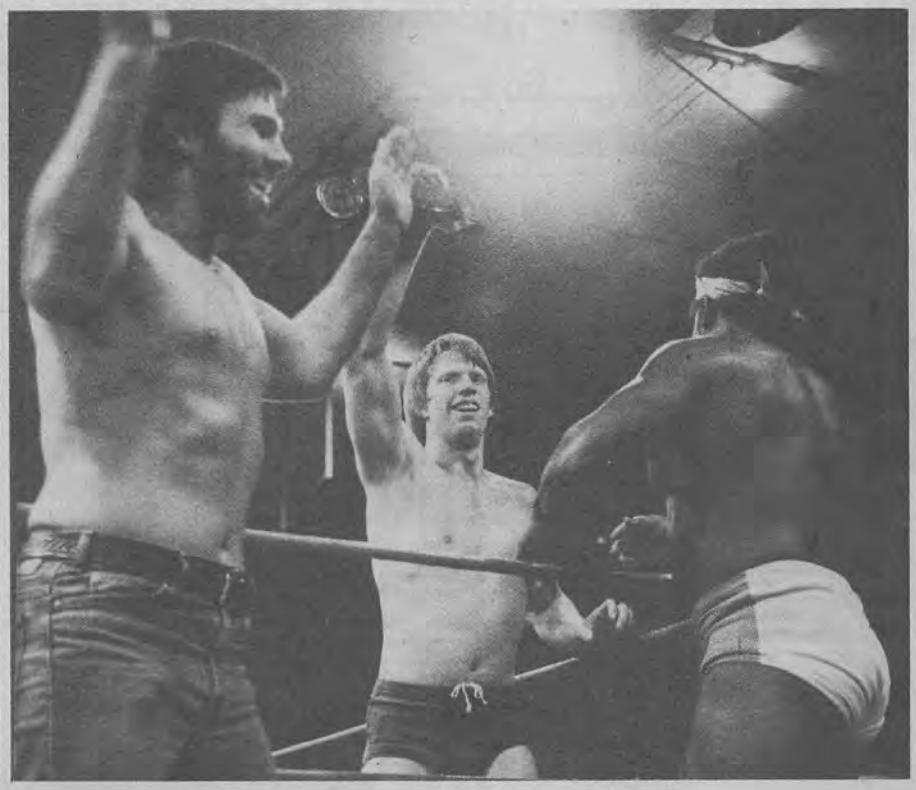
(Continued from page 40)

he's *very* happy, but the facts of his success are simply overwhelming him right now. He's a levelheaded kid, and if anyone can cope with quick success, it's Mike.

"But anyone, even the most levelheaded of kids, can allow himself to lapse into carelessness now and then," Fritz continued. "In the case of the World Class American champion, the title has to be defended against some of the most formidable competition in all of professional wrestling.

"Now I'm not saying I don't trust Mike, or that I don't have confidence in him, or that he's not a capable

Above: At 20 years old, Von Erich, rolling up Hernandez, is the youngest World Class American champion ever. Below: Mike celebrates his title victory with friends George Weingroff (foreground) and Sweet Brown Sugar.



champion. That's not it at all. Mike just doesn't have the experience of some of his challengers. I don't want to see Mike get hurt. And considering some of the things that guys like Gino Hernandez or The Missing Link can do to a man . . . well, I think you know what I'm getting at."

What Fritz was getting at was the fact that someone like Gino Hernandez, a notorious rulebreaker who enjoys inflicting more-than-necessary punishment, can severely injure a wrestler like Mike Von Erich, who has less than a year of professional experience.

To Mike's credit, he has been trained by some of the best wrestlers in the entire world. To train under the guidance of Fritz Von Erich is to learn from one of the true legends of professional wrestling. And Mike's brothers Kerry and Kevin work with him constantly.

Still, Mike Von Erich is young and vulnerable. In addition to having a relatively low level of experience, Mike gives away anywhere from 20 to 60 pounds per match, depending on his opponent.

"I'm not pulling my hair out or anything," Fritz said, "and I'm not about to sit down with Mike and start giving him warnings and advice. But I am keeping an eye on him, and I'm watching to make sure that he doesn't falter too much.

"This situation Mike is in can have a double effect," Fritz said. "Either the pressure will be too much and Mike will lose the title, hopefully without serious injury, or Mike will face up to the pressure and become that much more of a superb wrestler because of it. Call me a worried father and I'll tell you I'm thinking too much about the first possibility. Call me a proud father, and I'll admit I think about the second alternative."

No doubt the World Class wrestling fans are thinking about that second alternative as well. Mike Von Erich is facing the toughest challenges of his life right now, and facing them successfully could lift him to the level of the men who trained him. □

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

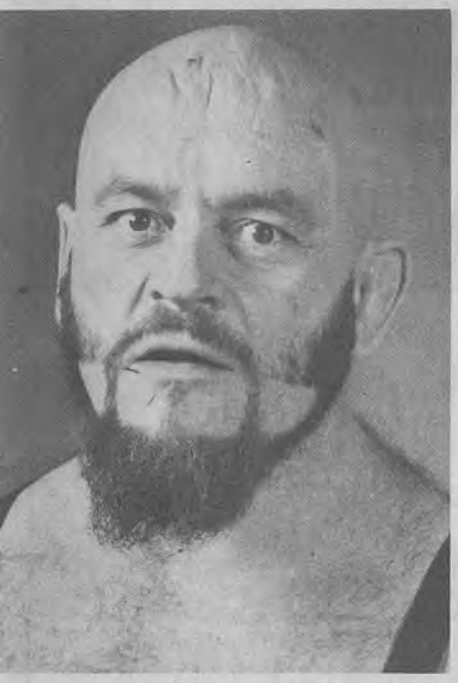
weight title on August 29 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The victory came shortly after Bass' entrance into the Mid-Atlantic from the Florida area. Bass also holds a portion of the Mid-Atlantic tag team title with **Black Bart**. Bass and Bart, also known as **The Long Riders**, won the newly reactivated championship in a recent tournament. Bass and Bart teamed frequently in Florida in the past, and at one time held the U.S. tag team title in the Sunshine State.

Eddie Gilbert defeated former "Fabulous One" tag team partner **Tommy Rich** for the Mid-Southern International heavyweight title. Gilbert, who came to the ring with **Jimmy Hart**, pulled out a chain and used it to savagely beat Rich. But when Tommy kneelifted Gilbert, the chain fell to the mat. Rich went for the chain and found himself in a tug-of-war with referee **Paul Morton**. Meanwhile, Hart called Gilbert over to the corner and told him, "if you want to be champion, take this." Hart gave Gilbert another chain, and Gilbert used it to beat Rich again and illegally take the title.

Chris Adams has announced that he is "sick and tired of getting the raw deals here in the World Class area." Citing several instances where he was promised title matches and never received them, Adams has stated that he will soon be "taking steps to assure that I get what's coming to me. All I want is what I deserve." Step number one for Adams has been to take on **Gary Hart** as adviser and mentor.

There seems to infighting going on in the "cult" of **Kevin Sullivan**. During a recent match in Orlando, Florida, Sullivan's attendants, **Fallen Angel** and **The Lock**, got into an argument over which one will comb Sullivan's hair prior to the start of the match. Sullivan separated them and sent Angel back to the dressing room area, solving the problem for the moment. But it appears as if there may be trouble ahead for The Lock and Fallen An-

Eddie Gilbert and Jimmy Hart agree to a public pact during Mid-Southern TV as announcer Lance Russell holds the microphone.



Ivan Koloff, who has held many titles throughout his glorious career, is the reigning Canadian champion.

gel, with Sullivan caught in the middle!

Steve Armstrong, the son of **Bob Armstrong**, is wrestling in the Southeast area, where he is known as "The Gulf Breeze Giant" ... **Ivan Koloff** is the current Canadian heavyweight champion ... **Ox Baker** is wrestling in the Central States area.

Dr. Ken Ramey is managing **The Golden Boy** and **Rip Tyler**, also known as **The Hollywood Blonds**, in the Georgia area ... **Hulk Hogan** lost a recent WWF heavyweight title defense in St. Louis to **George "The Animal" Steele** when Steele tossed Hogan out of the ring and the champ was counted out ... **J.J. Dillon** is negotiating to bring **The Zambuie Express** to the Mid-Atlantic area.

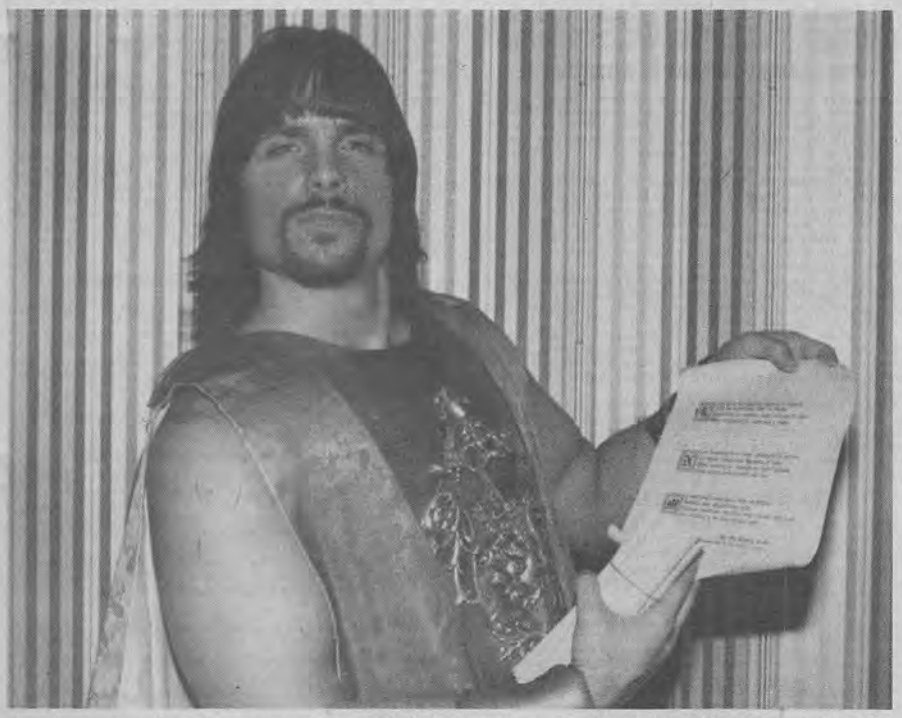
Throughout the Mid-Southern area, **Lanny Poffo** has been handing out scrolls to the fans. These scrolls, signed "By Sir Lanny Poffo, The First Knight of the Squared Circle," read:

Look back through the annals of history
And the wrestling Hall of Fame
Men from all nations with courage to spare
Who struggled to carve out a name

Now compare these high standards of valour
To those chivalrous Knights of yore
With bravery as staunch as their armour
Their glory both legend and lore

My medieval connection with wrestling
Relives that magnificent past
Though mindless skeptics may snicker and scoff
The winner is he who laughs last

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □



Sir Lanny Poffo holds up one of the scrolls he has been handing out to the fans at ringside. Poffo's new attitude about himself and his profession has alienated him from the fans.

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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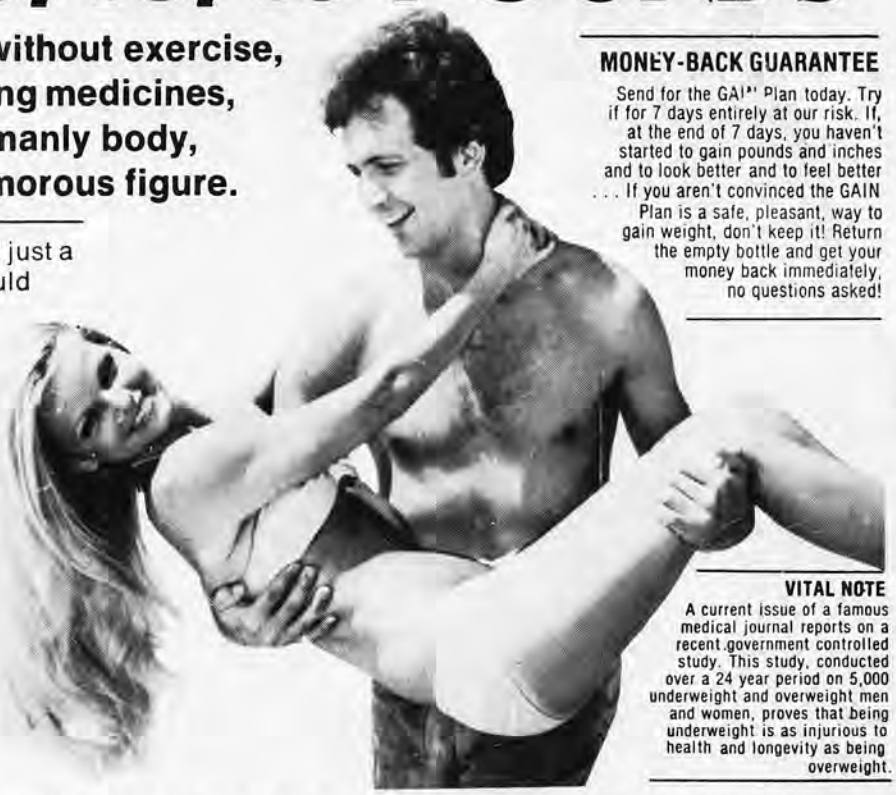

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Send for the GAIN Plan today. Try it for 7 days entirely at our risk. If, at the end of 7 days, you haven't started to gain pounds and inches and to look better and to feel better . . . If you aren't convinced the GAIN Plan is a safe, pleasant, way to gain weight, don't keep it! Return the empty bottle and get your money back immediately, no questions asked!

VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

At last, no matter what you have tried, no matter what you have done, if you are a normally healthy person, you can gain up to 5, 10, 15 pounds or more safely, surely, pleasantly, and that's a guaranteed money-back fact.

Yes now, even if you have been thin for years, you can have the fuller, more attractive body you have always wanted without dangerous drugs, without heart-straining exercise, without unpleasant tasting medicines!

This exciting method is easy, pleasant, and medically sound beyond a shadow of a doubt, and your own Doctor could tell you the same thing.

HERE'S ALL YOU DO

Before meals, or whenever you feel like it, you take delicious, chewable, nutritionally fortified GAIN tablets and that's it! No other medication to take. Nothing difficult or unpleasant to do, and without even being aware of it, a wonderfully exciting change takes place.

Those high-calorie GAIN tablets are rich in body-building materials! They not only add weight themselves, but they sharpen your appetite! You look forward to mealtimes, and without even realizing it, you start to eat more and almost immediately the weight gaining process begins!

As you follow your GAIN Plan which includes nutritional high calorie menus. You add pounds and inches to your arms, legs, chest, hips, everywhere. You'll be amazed at the fantastic transformation that occurs . . . as thin, unattractive areas start to develop into new magnetic appeal. You'll be thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear . . . if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit . . . embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly . . . your chest is too flat . . . your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be . . . If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh . . . so fulfilling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

HERE IS OUR OFFER . . .

We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straightforward offer . . .

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt . . . even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

SKINNY MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE

. . . a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give the GAIN Plan a chance to help build you up and put firm flesh on you.

GAIN IS SAFE

GAIN is not a dangerous drug, medicine or a fishy-tasting oil. It is made of safe, pure ingredients, contains nothing which could possibly harm you, and may even be taken with complete safety by children.

MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY

GAIN PRODUCTS CORP. Dept G931
Box 2346, Carbondale, Ill. 62901

Please send my package of GAIN Plan immediately with the understanding that if I am not satisfied, I may have my money back, no questions asked.

☐ One GAIN PLAN for $9.98
☐ SAVE $2.00! Order 2 for $17.96
☐ SAVE $5.00! Order 3 for $25.00
Enclosed is $_____

☐ cash, ☐ check or ☐ money order

NAME _____ please print

ADDRESS _____

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STATE _____ ZIP _____

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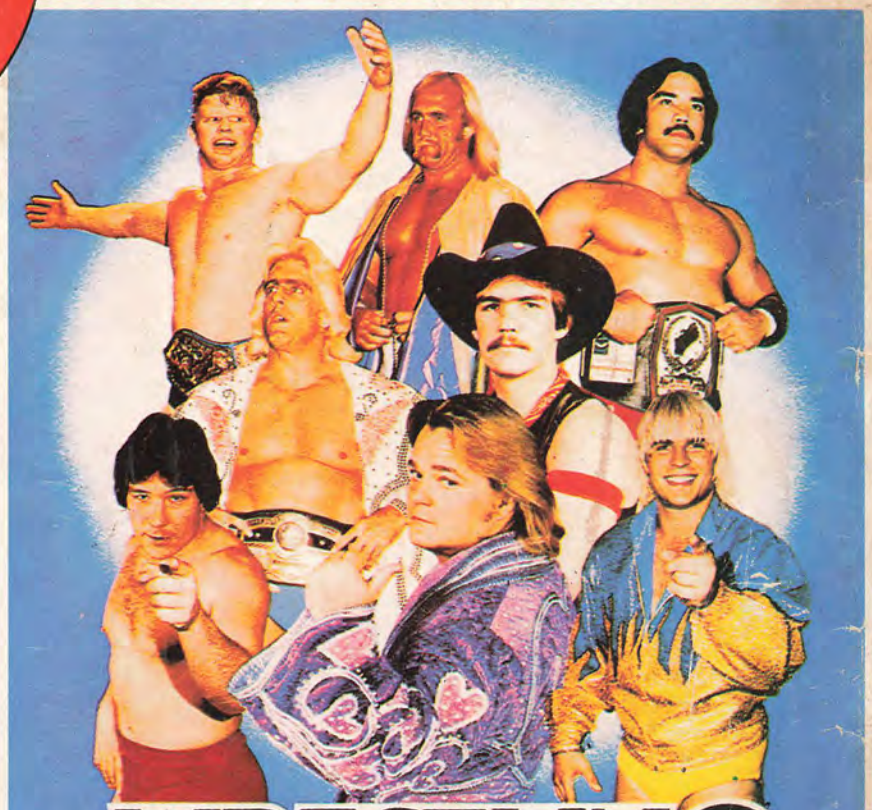
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